The SPORTS PINK

Saturday, March 22, 2014

55p

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Daily Echo

COOK SWOOPS AT THE DEATH FOR CHERRIES

Barnsley v Bournemouth match report – see page 7

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Ahead of Spurs clash midfield ace talks of Saints' ambition

We can carry on our rise says Davis

see page 2

COULD SAINTS BE ON WAY TO THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?

WHY NOT? ASKS ART

AIMING HIGH: Saints' goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

ARTUR Boruc has not given up hope of Saints earning a European place this season, while the Champions League remains the keeper's long-term ambition at the club.

Mauricio Pochettino's side visit Tottenham tomorrow and a win would keep them in with a chance of securing a place in the top six of the Premier League.

That would be enough to book a place in the Europa League, and Saints keeper Boruc believes that is still a possibility.

Gordon Simpson
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SPORTS REPORTER

Boruc has also previously gone on record, more than once, saying that he believes Saints can reach the Champions League.

While the Champions League dream has clearly been extinguished this season, the Poland international has not given up hope of the competition coming to St Mary's in the future.

"Why not? Why not with Southampton Football Club? Why not play in the Champions League?"

As for this season, Boruc says: "We're still thinking about the European spots," he said. "If you dream big, good things happen.

"So we're going there [White Hart Lane] to grab all three points. I think we are good enough."

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TERRY PAINE

Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column

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WEMBLEY

Day of dreams for Gosport heroes

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NON-LEAGUE

Eight pages of the latest action

SAINTS

Stars in hospital – but in a good cause

See page 11

WHY POCHETTINO WILL STAY – SEE PAGE 3

Saints Spotlight

Agony for Arsene on his big day

ARSENE Wenger described his 1,000th match as Arsenal manager as a career low after Chelsea inflicted an embarrassing 6-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge.

Wenger was last month called "a specialist in failure" by Jose Mourinho and remains without a victory in 11 attempts against his nemesis after a spectacular implosion and an horrendous error by referee Andre Marriner, who mistakenly sent off Kieran Gibbs.

Wenger did not attend his press conference, but told the BBC: "This defeat is my fault, I take full responsibility for it.

"I don't think there's too much need to talk about the mistakes we made. We got a good hiding today.

"It's one of the worst days (in my career). It's over after 20 minutes and it's a long game after that. You don't prepare all week to experience that kind of experience."

OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN: The former Saints player seemed lucky to escape red card.

Chelsea were already 2-0 up when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain handled an Eden Hazard shot and Marriner mistakenly showed the red card to Gibbs, despite his team-mate apparently approaching the referee to admit wrongdoing.

"I believe it was handball but the referee hasn't seen it," Wenger added.

"The ball went out and I think it's Chamberlain who touched the ball.

"I don't know who gave indication to the referee that it was handball but he has certainly not seen it."

Arsenal's defeat dropped them down to fourth in the table after Liverpool and Manchester City both also won by emphatic scorelines.

Swansea also lost 3-2 at Everton to remain just a point better off.

Wilfried Bony had cancelled out a Leyton Baines penalty but second-half goals from Romelu Lukaku and Ross Barkley secured a win that lifts Everton above Tottenham and into fifth.

Ashley Williams headed in an injury-time corner but it was too late for the Swans.

MARCHING IN!

SATISFIED: Steve Davis believes it's been a positive season.

Saints can keep climbing the table

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SAINTS midfielder Steven Davis is hoping the club can climb higher up the table this season, as they prepare to take on Spurs tomorrow.

Mauricio Pochettino's side entered the weekend holding on to eighth place in the Premier League and still retaining hope that they could catch some of the teams above them.

"I haven't really put any limits on it, to be honest," said Davis. "We just want to have as strong a season as possible.

"We've managed to do that, I think we've had a good season so far, but there's still eight games remaining and still a lot to play for.

"I think you can see even by the performances in the last couple of weeks we're desperate to keep winning games and finish as high as possible and get as many points as possible, so that's not going to change.

"Hopefully if we can do that then we can move up a position or two."

Davis added: "I think there's been so many positives to take this season.

"The progress the club has made in the last five years has been unbelievable, and to continue doing that year in and year out is testament, obviously, to the staff behind the scenes and the players that have achieved it at different levels as well.

"So far, we feel we've had a decent season, and we want to try and continue that, and then who knows what the future holds?"

Saints were beaten 3-2 by Spurs when the teams met at St Mary's earlier this season, but Davis is confident of turning the tables on them at White Hart Lane tomorrow afternoon.

"Without doubt, we're hoping to get a better result this time," he said. "In general, our performances over the course of the season have been really positive.

"It would be nice to go and pick up another result. It's important we finish the season strongly.

Tough game

"We're in a good position at the minute, but we're wanting to finish as high up the table as possible, and just keep winning games."

Saints' away form has been extremely good this season, with the club winning 22 of their 45 points on the road.

"I think we've found, especially at St Mary's this season, a lot of teams have come and tried to sit in and make it difficult for us, and if you don't get that first goal it can prove that way," said Davis.

"Away from home, I think teams open up a little bit more, which suits us.

"We're expecting Tottenham to be a tough game. They've got a lot of quality players, but we know we're capable.

"If we play to the levels we know we're capable of then we'll get a result."

FOR ALL OF TODAY'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL

Saints Spotlight

Europe 'will help us improve'

ARTUR BORUC

From page 1

But the 34-year-old added: "I think it's not just about this game. There's a couple of games left, and you can grab a good amount of points.

"Of course, I'm still thinking about that European spot, but it's going to be hard, I know that as well.

"But we've shown this season that we are able to compete with the biggest clubs in England."

While a Europa League campaign can undoubtedly take a significant toll in the Premier League, Boruc believes it is an experience worth pursuing for Saints.

"It's hard to describe, to be honest, how different a thing it is for everybody, the way you're playing against top teams in the world, in Europe," he said.

"It's a great experience for everybody. You can just improve from that."

"That's the thing in my life – I'm dreaming big and good things happen to me," he said.

"I was a guy from a little town in Poland who's become a football player, so I can tell you just now that dreams come true.

For now, though, there points at Tottenham remains the most pressing objective.

Tim Sherwood's side were knocked out of the Europa League on Thursday, against Benfica, but Boruc does not believe their midweek exertions will have an impact tomorrow.

"You know, when you're a professional football player, that kind of thing doesn't really matter," he said.

"You still have to train every single day.

"Obviously, the games involve a bit more running for the outfield players, but at the very end it's another game and, in the professional life, that happens all the time."

BORUC BACKS BOSS TO STAY

SAINTS keeper Artur Boruc is confident that manager Mauricio Pochettino will soon sign a new contract with the club.

Pochettino's current deal expires at the end of next season, and the absence of a fresh one is beginning to cause some uncertainty, ***WRITES GORDON SIMPSON.***

Rickie Lambert this week encouraged the new Saints board to tie the 42-year-old down to an extended stay, and Boruc said that is a feeling shared among the squad.

"I think so. You can see that we've improved," he said. "We're playing very good football, you can enjoy seeing us playing.

"I can't really say anything more. That should easily be in the minds of the board, and I think sooner or later it's going to happen."

Boruc added: "We don't really talk too much about it. We'll see what's going to happen in the next weeks. I think it's going to happen sooner or later."

Pochettino, right, has been linked with a move to tomorrow's opponents, Spurs, this summer, but there have also been suggestions that Saints are already trying to agree a new contract with him.

Boruc certainly hopes that they can convince him to extend his stay.

"He's done lots of good things at Southampton Football Club, and I think that's the way we should go," he said.

"I think the boss shows lots of commitment to the club, and I think he knows what to do with the bunch of players as we are.

"We can be a very good team when he's here."

While Lambert and Boruc have both stated publicly that they would like to see Pochettino get a new deal, the Saints keeper said the greatest reason to push him into signing can be found on the pitch.

"We try and convince the board by the way we're playing," he said. "That's all we can do.

"Talking doesn't really do any harm, but it can't really help as well.

"We're going to play the best we can, and try to help in this way."

ARTUR BORUC: Reckons Saints players can help get the boss a new deal.

RESULTS AND TABLES – TURN TO PAGE 48

Newcastle push Saints back down

PAPISS Cisse headed Newcastle to a last-gasp victory over Crystal Palace as Alan Pardew's team left it desperately late at St James' Park.

Their 94th-minute goal in the 1-0 win over Crystal Palace took Newcastle back above Saints in the Premier League table – prior to Southampton's Sunday clash with Tottenham.

The Senegal international, who had earlier been denied three times by Palace keeper Julian Speroni, powered substitute Hatem Ben Arfa's cross home in the fourth-minute of stoppage time to snatch a 1-0 win with his first goal since January 4.

Midfielder Cheick Tiote had rattled the crossbar seconds earlier as Palace looked to have survived, but Cisse ensured the Eagles remain firmly entrenched in the battle for Barclays Premier League survival.

Speroni's heroics had kept the Eagles in a game of little real quality until that point, and they might even have been ahead themselves with Yannick Bolasie clipping the crossbar seconds after Kagisho Dikgacoi had gone one-on-one with keeper Tim Krul.

Banned ex-Saints boss Pardew watched the game via video-link from the club's training ground.

Manchester City chalked up a simple 5-0 win over last-placed Fulham on the back of a Yaya Toure hat-trick.

The Ivory Coast midfielder scored a penalty in each half, the second after Fernando Amorebieta saw red, before bending in a long-range strike on 65 minutes.

Fernandinho and Martin Demichelis struck late on to ensure City joined their title rivals in racking up a big score.

West Brom did not take anything from their trip to Hull, losing 2-0 to goals from Liam Rosenior and Shane Long.

It was a bad afternoon for the teams in the bottom three as Sunderland were beaten 2-0 at Norwich. The Black Cats had no answer for first-half goals from Robert Snodgrass and Alex Tettey. Gus Poyet's side remain three points from safety, however, as the teams above them failed to take advantage.

Can Saints move to the next level?

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

THESE are exciting times at Southampton football club.

I wonder if I'm the only one truly excited at the arrival of Ralph Krueger at St Mary's?

If you are going to replace a hugely successful chairman such a Nicola Cortese then the logical type you would look to would be the ex-sportsman turned businessman which Krueger, pictured, fits to a tee.

The 54-year-old was special adviser to the national team in Sochi, following roles as head coach of Switzerland and Edmonton Oilers in the National Hockey League.

He has been described as a great communicator, positive thinker and a motivator. His book *Teamlife - Beyond Setbacks to Success*, was devoted to handling problems in life, and became a bestseller.

It demonstrates a single minded attitude towards overcoming obstacles and achieving success through a positive mental attitude, very much in keeping with 'The Southampton Way'.

His first words in regards to the club show tremendous promise.

He said: "Although there is a solid foundation in place, the club still has tremendous untapped commercial potential. We will continue to nurture 'The Southampton Way' by reaching for consistent growth in all departments to ultimately build a culture that allows Southampton to remain healthy and sustainable in the future."

Another interesting feature of the appointment of Krueger, Gareth Rogers and Hans Hofstetter, is the presence of Katharina Liebherr in all of this.

That is the same Katharina Liebherr that everyone "in the know" told us couldn't wait to offload the club to the highest bidder. Krueger himself is quoted as saying: "It is not for sale, Katharina Liebherr is here to grow the club.

"Katharina has embraced so much of the environment," he added. "She has been visible and coming to games and the smile has been hard to take off her face. She is excited about taking this club to another level and doing everything that is possible to nurture that. We know there are a lot of areas to improve on and Katharina wants us to attack those opportunities together."

The arrival of the new team hopefully will herald a new era of stability within the club.

The most welcome news would be the commitment of the manager to a new deal and the dismissal of rumours linking Luke Shaw and Adam Lallana with moves away to so called bigger clubs.

I'd add that the way Southampton Football Club could convince its current manager and players to stay at the club would be to look beyond the Premier League and focus on Europe.

I know that if you mention Saints and Europe you'll invariably get laughed at.

How can little old Southampton possibly challenge for a place in a European competition?

The answer should really be: why shouldn't they?

If we've learnt anything from the last five years it's that anything is possible. In 2009 Markus Liebherr took possession of a club languishing bottom of League One on -10 points.

Within five years the club is ninth in the top flight and has produced four current full England internationals. That sort of achievement is nothing short of phenomenal.

The framework for more improvement is there, the infrastructure is there, is it really such a stretch of the imagination that Saints could replicate their previous success on a bigger stage?

The challenge for the new team is to set realistic targets and acquire new assets to help the club move on to the next level whilst holding on to the assets we already have.

So far the Liebherr family have been admirably resolute in their rebuttal of unwanted transfer bids.

A firm, resolute approach is needed in regards to Luke Shaw and Adam Lallana.

You can play for your country and achieve the status of England international whilst playing for Southampton Football Club. If that is true, then why can't these players achieve other great things whilst playing for us?

The future for this football club has never been brighter and, with the ambitious and experienced new team in place at the head of the club, who's to say what we can't achieve?

Pain

The Saints legend's

THE media had another field day following Chelsea's defeat to Aston Villa last weekend and the Mourinho mayhem that ensued.

As has become all too apparent in recent weeks, Mourinho looked to deflect the attention from his players and solely onto himself.

The post-match interview that followed saw "The Special One" biting his tongue with the assertion that he didn't want to bring the game into disrepute.

Of course, the Portuguese, like his players, had lost his cool and been sent to the stands.

The man in the middle of the controversy was referee Chris Foy, whose character was then attacked by Mourinho.

"Maybe it's helpful that the (Premier League referees') committee doesn't send him (Foy) to our matches. I don't have the right to request (that). It's just I think they have to analyse the situation and see if every time he has Chelsea – or not every time – but many times he has Chelsea and problems are there, I think maybe it would be a good decision."

Mourinho has subsequently been charged by the FA for improper conduct, a move that will no doubt draw scorn from the manager himself. Foy, for his part in the ill-tempered match, will receive no such enquiry and can expect to be back in the middle this weekend.

While he most certainly got the Ramires red-card correct, which was one of the most horrific challenges seen this season, things may not have boiled over had he not gotten the earlier red card incorrect.

On that occasion, Willian was booked following the slightest of contact with Villa's match-winner Fabian Delph.

> "Refs have got more of the big calls wrong, which is unacceptable in this day and age."

Following the match Mourinho made an attempt to speak to the referee. He said: "I tried to speak to Mr Foy twice. I tried to speak on the pitch and I tried in the dressing rooms. In the dressing rooms I tried to ask politely, can you give me five seconds and he refused."

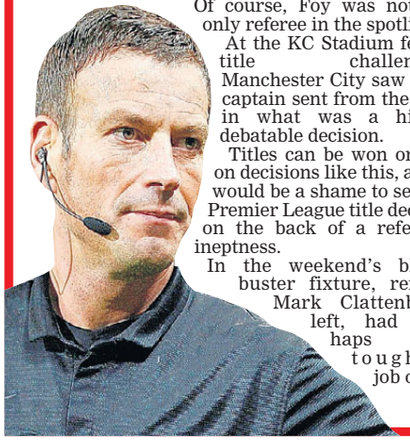
The lack of dialogue between referees and managers is a major issue within the league, and the longer the FA continue to keep the two apart the more distrust is going to grow.

Of course, Foy was not the only referee in the spotlight.

At the KC Stadium fellow title challengers Manchester City saw their captain sent from the field in what was a highly debatable decision.

Titles can be won or lost on decisions like this, and it would be a shame to see the Premier League title decided on the back of a referee's ineptness.

In the weekend's blockbuster fixture, referee Mark Clattenburg, left, had perhaps the toughest job of all.



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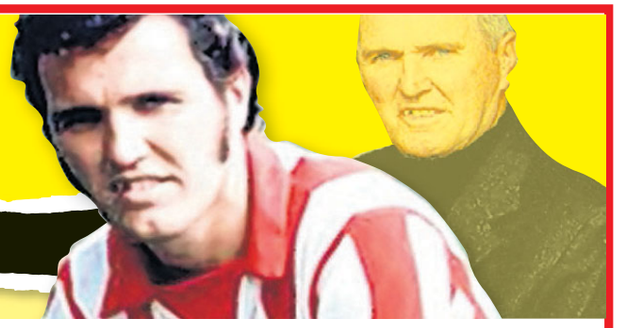
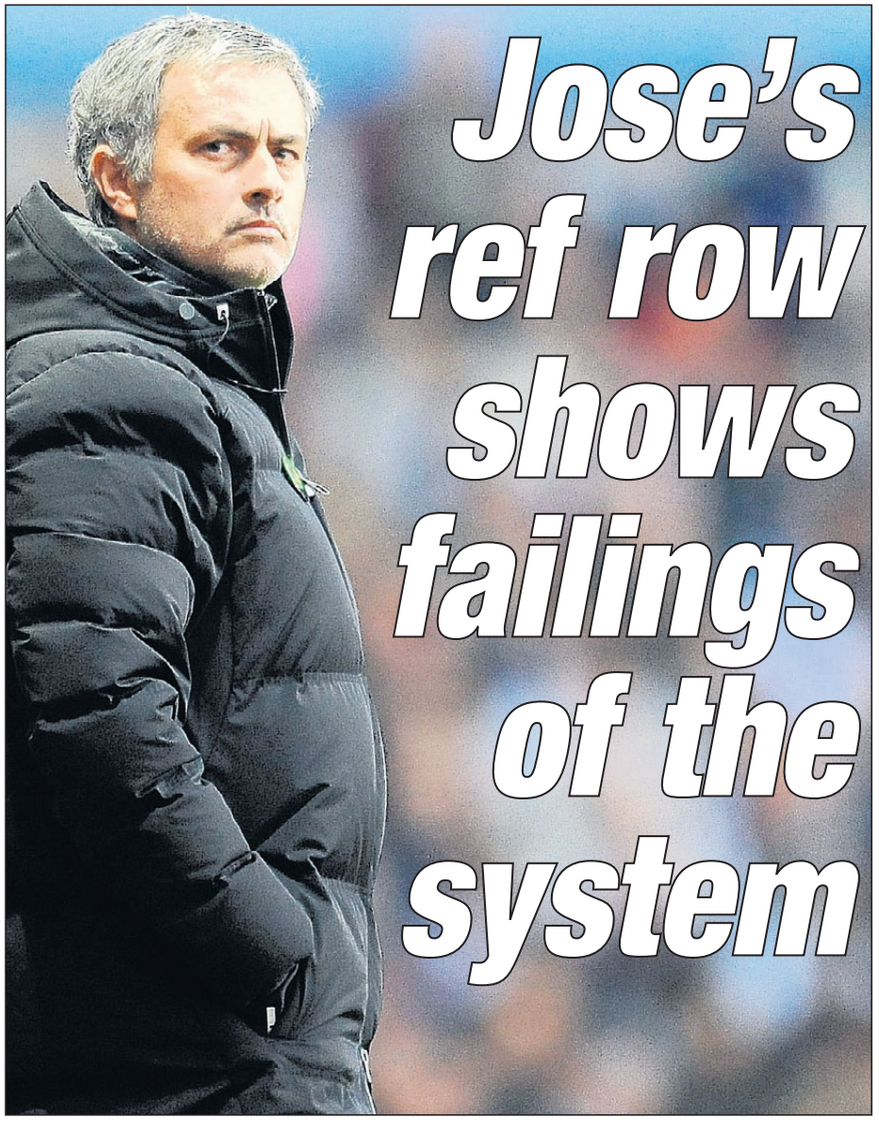
EXCLUSIVE column on all things football





Jose's ref row shows failings of the system

CONTROVERSY: Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho was involved in a clash with referee Chris Foy after last weekend's defeat for his side at the hands of Aston Villa.

Manchester United v Liverpool is always going to be a difficult fixture to take charge of, but Sunday's meeting was a particularly testing one.

While on the whole he acquitted himself admirably, there were two big talking points after the match.

One of the most difficult parts of being a referee is when to apply the letter of the law, and when to take your own discretion.

This much was clear following Rafael's handball in the box for the first penalty. According to the laws of the game, the Brazilian should've seen red, but Clattenburg took it upon himself not to ruin the match by sending him for an early shower. Was that decision his to make? Or should discretion be taken out of the equation completely?

Clattenburg did end up brandishing red, but again the decision was incorrect. No blame can be apportioned to him though, as in real-time it looked a clear-cut penalty and a second yellow for Nemanja Vidic.

Replays showed otherwise, but referees and assistants are not given such luxuries. League titles can often hinge on big decisions like this; do we not owe it to clubs to get them right?

One bright point for the weekend came at Craven Cottage where technology showed that it does have a place in the game. Johnny Heitinga's deflected shot seemed to the naked eye to have crossed the line, but technology showed us otherwise. The correct decision was made and a controversy was averted in a matter of seconds.

As the Premier League title reaches it's final frenetic weeks, referees are going to be under more scrutiny than ever. Glory will hinge on every decision and the FA owes it to them to provide them with every possible tool to make the correct decision.

Following the success of Hawkeye for goal-line decisions, the FA might be tempted to sit down over the summer and discuss a plan of action going forward. It seems referees have gotten more of the big calls wrong this season, which is unacceptable in this day and age.

Rodgers' gets his tactics spot on

CELEBRATE: Steven Gerrard after netting in Liverpool's win over Man United.

KNOWN for liking to change his tactics for each match, Brendan Rodgers threw something of a curveball with his decision to approach Manchester United largely the same as he had the previous game against Southampton.

The difference was that the second time around his decision to largely leave his fullbacks isolated in favour of overloading the midfield and allowing both Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge to set up as out and out strikers actually worked better than the first.

Despite the final score, Southampton at times proved a threat to the Merseyside giants. Manchester United didn't.

"I wanted to have superiority inside," said the Rodgers of his decision to play the diamond for a second match in a row. "I wanted to flood numbers around the middle of the field in order to control the game. Manchester United's centre halves drop off, so we could exploit the space in front of that with Raheem Sterling's speed and then introduce PhilippeCoutinho to the game. We worked it the other way against Southampton, where we felt we could play through and get it into Philippe, who could open the game up, then bring Raheem into it later when it had opened up."

The one tweak is telling, as is Rodgers' reasoning behind the switch.

Though Coutinho wasn't especially impressive the week before, the Brazilian playmaker is usually at his best when put under the kind of pressure Southampton likes to play with and he has the chance to beat the first man and spring Liverpool's attack. Give him space to run into, and the quality of his performances often suffers, whereas Sterling sees such space as an invitation to accelerate.

Yet if the Sterling switch made tactical sense, just as important to Liverpool's success was United's failure to adjust.

Sterling had a solid afternoon, but where Liverpool won the match was behind him, with the diamond's two shuttling, nominally wide midfielder, something David Moyes never adjusted his side to deal with.

Joe Allen and Jordan Henderson were allowed to play narrow the entire match, giving Liverpool three central midfielders against United's two. If Adnan Januzaj or Juan Mata had been able to trouble Liverpool's fullbacks it would have forced Allen and Henderson wide and left Liverpool disadvantaged in midfield, but they never really did.

The situation was exacerbated by United's fullbacks for the most part playing a defensive game, tasked with aiding United's vulnerable centre halves against Liverpool's deadly attacking trio.

That meant that despite Liverpool's fullbacks being left largely isolated, they mostly faced just one attacker on the flanks, and both Januzaj and Mata had a tendency to drift inside any time United did manage to threaten the final third despite being outnumbered in their midfield build-up play.

Liverpool were winning the tactical battle, and United failed to react.

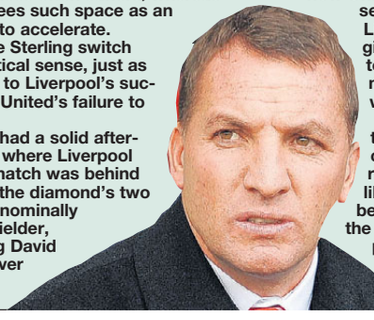
Moyes had options. He could have pushed his fullbacks on, attacking Liverpool's exposed flanks and perhaps forcing Rodgers, pictured below, to alter his tactics in response, but the United manager has always set up his teams to be hard to beat first.

Yet if a proactive approach was never likely, it remains puzzling that he never tried to pull at least Mata fully inside to even up the midfield numbers.

It's puzzling that even when he did make changes, they didn't actually seem intended to alter United's basic approach to the match.

Rodgers saw a potential weakness in how United would set up and seized on it, helping Liverpool to a victory that gives fans one more reason to believe in a title challenge nobody would have bet on when the season started.

For Moyes and United, on the other hand, the real concern isn't that Rodgers got it right identifying United's likeliest approach and the best way to exploit it, but that the United manager, in a display of gross incompetence, never did anything about it.



Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2013/14

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST																
Sat 17	West Brom (A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana*	Rodriguez**	**Lambert 1**	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Cork***
Sat 24	**Sunderland (H)**	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Lovren	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Lallana***	Rodriguez	Lambert	Clyne*	Osvaldo**	Ramirez***
Tue 27	Barnsley (CCC 2) (A)	**W 5-1**	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Fox	Cork	**S Davis 2**	Isgrove*	**Ramirez 1**	**Rodriguez** 1**	**Mayuka*** 1**	Rowe*	Reed**	Sinclair***
Sat 31	Norwich (A)	**L 0-1**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Osvaldo***	Lallana*	Lambert	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Rodriguez***
SEPTEMBER																
Sun 15	**West Ham (H)**	**D 0-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw**	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez	Osvaldo	Lallana*	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Chambers**	
Sat 21	Liverpool (A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	**Lovren 1**	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez***	Osvaldo	Lallana**	Lambert*	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Cork***
Tues 24	**Bristol City (CCC 3) (H)**	**W 2-0**	K Davis	Chambers	Yoshida	**Hooiveld 1**	Fox	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	**Ramirez 1**	Do Prado**	Lee*	Rodriguez*	Reed**	Rowe***
Sat 28	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	**Osvaldo 1**	Lallana***	**Lambert** 1**	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez**	Ramirez***
OCTOBER																
Sat 5	**Swansea (H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Osvaldo*	**Lallana 1**	Lambert	W-Prowse*	**Rodriguez** 1**	Do Prado***
Sat 19	Man United (A)	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez*	Osvaldo	Lambert*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 26	**Fulham (H)**	**W 2-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse**	**Rodriguez* 1**	Lallana	**Lambert 1**	Do Prado*	Cork**	
NOVEMBER																
Sat 2	Stoke (A)	**D 1-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	**Rodriguez* 1**	Lallana	Lambert	Ramirez*		
Wed 6	Sunderland (CCC 4) (A)	**L 1-2**	K Davis	Chambers	**Yoshida 1**	Hooiveld	Fox	Cork	Reed	S Davis**	Ramirez***	Rodriguez	Lee*	W-Prowse*	Lallana**	Gallagher***
Sat 9	**Hull (H)**	**W 4-1**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama*	**Schneiderlin 1**	W-Prowse	**Lallana*** 1**	Rodriguez	**Lambert** 1**	S Davis*	Osvaldo**	Cork***
Sat 23	Arsenal (A)	**L 0-2**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Hooiveld	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert	S Davis*	Osvaldo**	
DECEMBER																
Sun 1	Chelsea (A)	**L 1-3**	Boruc*	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	W-Prowse**	Lallana	**Rodriguez 1**	Osvaldo	Gazzaniga*	S Davis**	Lambert***
Wed 4	**Aston Villa (H)**	**L 2-3**	Gazzaniga	Clyne***	Yoshida	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse*	Lallana	**Rodriguez 1**	Lambert	**Osvaldo* 1**	Cork**	Fonte***
Sat 7	**Manchester City (H)**	**D 1-1**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	**Osvaldo* 1**	Lambert*	Ramirez**	Reed***
Sat 14	Newcastle (A)	**D 1-1**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Shaw	Cork	S Davis	W-Prowse**	**Rodriguez*** 1**	Osvaldo*	Lambert	Lallana*	Schneiderlin**	Gallagher***
Sat 21	**Tottenham (H)**	**L 2-3**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Hooiveld	Lovren	Fox***	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez	**Lambert 1**	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Thu 26	Cardiff (A)	**W 3-0**	Gazzaniga	Chambers	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Lallana *	**Rodriguez 2 ****	**Lambert 1*****	W-Prowse*	Ramirez**	Gallagher***
Sun 29	Everton (A)	**L 1-2**	K Davis	Chambers***	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert	**Ramirez* 1**	Gallagher**	Clyne***
JANUARY																
Wed 1	**Chelsea (H)**	**L 0-3**	K Davis	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw*	Cork**	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana	Ramirez	Rodriguez	Clyne*	Lambert**	W-Prowse***
Sat 4	**Burnley (FAC 3) (H)**	**W 4-3**	K Davis	**Clyne 1**	Yoshida	Hooiveld***	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Ramirez**	W-Prowse	**Lambert* 1**	**Rodriguez* 1**	**Lallana** 1**	Fonte***
Sat 11	**West Brom (H)**	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	**Lallana** 1**	Rodriguez***	Lambert	Ramirez*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 18	Sunderland (A)	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	**Lovren*** 1**	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Lallana*	**Rodriguez 1**	Lambert	Ramirez* **	W-Prowse**	Yoshida***
Sat 25	**Yeovil (FAC 4) (H)**	**W 2-0**	K Davis	Clyne	Yoshida	Hooiveld	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana**	**Do Prado* 1**	Rodriguez	**Gallagher* 1**	S Davis**	Reed***
Tue 28	**Arsenal (H)**	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	**Lallana 1**	Rodriguez	Gallagher*	W-Prowse*	Do Prado**	
FEBRUARY																
Sat 1	Fulham (A)	**W 3-0**	Boruc	Chambers**	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	**Lallana 1**	**Rodriguez*** 1**	**Lambert 1**	Cork*	Clyne**	Gallagher***
Sat 8	**Stoke (H)**	**D 2-2**	Boruc	Clyne*	Fonte	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	**S Davis 1**	Lallana	Rodriguez	**Lambert 1**	Chambers*		
Tue 11	Hull (A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Chambers	**Fonte 1**	Yoshida	Shaw	Cork	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert*	Do Prado*	W-Prowse**	Wanyama***
Sat 15	Sunderland (FAC 5) (A)	**L 0-1**	K Davis	Clyne	Yoshida	Hooiveld	Shaw	Wanyama	S Davis	W-Prowse**	Lallana***	Do Prado*	Lambert	Rodriguez*	Schneiderlin**	McQueen***
Sat 22	West Ham (A)	**W 3-1**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	**Yoshida 1**	Shaw	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert***	Ramirez*	W-Prowse**	Gallagher***
MARCH																
Sat 1	**Liverpool (H)**	**L 0-3**	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork***	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Lallana	Rodriguez	Lambert**	Ramirez*	Gallagher**	Wanyama***
Sat 8	Crystal Palace (A)	**W 1-0**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Lallana	**Rodriguez 1**	Lambert**	Wanyama*	Gallagher**	W-Prowse***
Sat 15	**Norwich (H)**	**W 4-2**	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	W-Prowse	**Schneiderlin 1**	S Davis	Lallana*	Ramirez**	**Rodriguez*** 1**	**Lambert* 1**	Do Prado**	**Gallagher*** 1**
Sat 22	Tottenham (A)															
Sat 29	**Newcastle (H)**															
APRIL																
Sat 5	Manchester City (A)															
Sat 12	**Cardiff (H)**															
Sat 19	Aston Villa (A)															
Sat 26	**Everton (H)**															
MAY																
Sat 3	Swansea (A)															
Sun11	**Man United (H)**															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	2	0	6	0	292(1)	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	5(1)	0	0	0	16(1)	0
ARTUR BORUC	23	0	0	0	44	0
NATHANIEL CLYNE	15(4)	0	4	1	53(4)	2
CALUM CHAMBERS	15(2)	0	2	0	17(3)	0
DEJAN LOVREN	23	2	0	0	23	2
JOSE FONTE	27(1)	3	1(1)	0	169(5)	15
JOS HOOIVELD	4	0	5	1	75(3)	9
MAYA YOSHIDA	6(1)	1	6	1	45(2)	2
LUKE SHAW	27(1)	0	3	0	54(6)	0
DANNY FOX	3	0	3	0	58(10)	1
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
JACK CORK	14(6)	0	5	0	115(14)	0
VICTOR WANYAMA	15(3)	0	1	0	16(3)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	26(1)	2	2(1)	0	195(30)	10
ADAM LALLANA	30(1)	7	2(2)	1	231(26)	58
STEVEN DAVIS	20(5)	2	5(1)	2	48(17)	6
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	13(14)	0	4(1)	0	27(27)	1
SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0
OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	2(12)	1	4	2	26(18)	8
GULY DO PRADO	0(7)	0	3	1	80(35)	23

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
RICKIE LAMBERT	24(5)	9	2	1	212(15)	113
JAY RODRIGUEZ	27(2)	12	3(3)	2	55(16)	23
DANI OSVALDO	9(4)	3	0	0	9(4)	3
TADANARI LEE	0	0	2	0	9(5)	2
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
SAM GALLAGHER	1(9)	1	0(2)	1	1(11)	2
HARRISON REED	0(1)	0	1(3)	0	1(4)	0

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

Cook strikes at the death for Cherries

CHERRIES emerged with three points from a largely dour clash at Barnsley after Steve Cook headed in an injury-time winner for Eddie Howe's men.

It was a tale of poor finishing from both sides up until Cook's last-gasp intervention and, having gone down to a late goal against Charlton at the Valley in midweek, this was poetic justice for a Cherries side that never gives up.

The other positive for Eddie Howe was a fifth clean sheet in six Championship games – no mean feat in a league as wacky and unpredictable as this one.

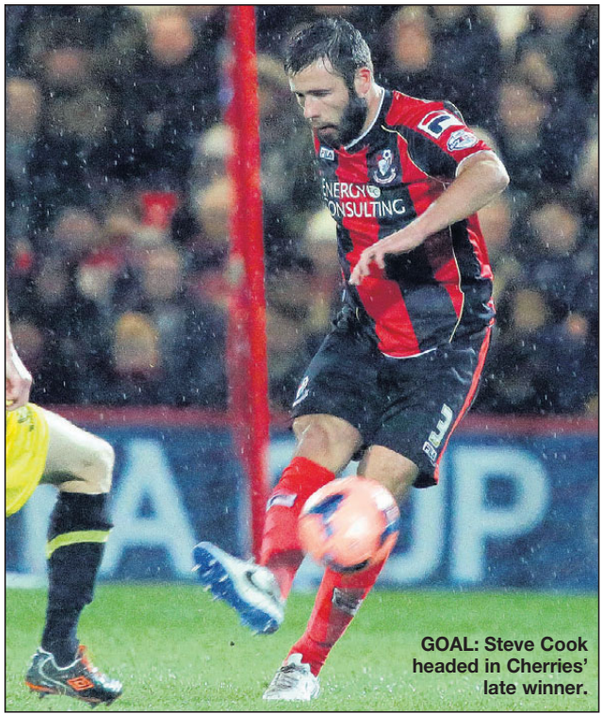
Boss Howe made two changes to the side that went down 1-0 at Charlton in midweek, with Yann Kermorgant returning to the starting line-up after recovering from a heel injury and Matt Ritchie replacing Harry Arter as Howe opted for a four-man midfield.

FIRST CHANCE

It was the home side that fashioned the first chance after just a few seconds, Chris O'Grady heading straight at Lee Camp after Jack Hunt had robbed Andrew Surman of possession in midfield.

Hunt was involved again moments later when he appeared to pull the shirt of Ryan Fraser as the little winger tore towards goal, but the Scot's appeals for a penalty were waved away by referee Scott Mathieson.

Tykes keeper Steele saved well from Fraser after six minutes, before O'Grady blazed over at the other end five minutes later.



GOAL: Steve Cook headed in Cherries' late winner.

The dangerous Dale Jennings saw his 15th-minute shot deflected over Camp's crossbar as the hosts settled, but Steele was fortunate on 20 minutes after he failed to cling on to a Ritchie piledriver, which trickled narrowly past the post.

Surman should have handed Cherries the lead on the half-hour. The Norwich loanee was beautifully played in by Kermorgant and only had Steele to beat, but managed to skew his deft chip over the advancing goalkeeper wide. It was a wonderful chance.

At the other end, Martin Woods spurned a great opportunity to put Danny Wilson's side in front eight minutes before the break.

Camp spilled a cross from Ryan McLaughlin while under pressure and the ball fell invitingly for Woods with the goal gaping but he fired wide.

Marcus Pedersen gave Cook the slip at the start of the second half, but shanked his right-foot shot horribly wide. At the other end moments later, Fraser's own effort was equally as poor.

Ritchie fired straight at Steele on 52 minutes as Cherries battled to find an opening, while Eunan O'Kane's strike from distance was well wide of the target.

Pedersen was guilty of another dire miss 20 minutes into the second period when, having been expertly played in by O'Grady, he blazed woefully wide when bearing down on goal. It was the tale of match at the point.

On 70 minutes, Surman added to the shots off target tally when his left-foot effort failed to trouble Steele, before Ritchie's lovely dipping shot eight minutes later came back off the crossbar.

A nice Cherries set-piece move saw Harte feed Grabban, but captain Tommy Elphick's header from the striker's cross was too weak and easily saved by Steele.

LAST LAUGH

Ian Harte was on hand to block a shot from Pedersen after the Tykes had launched a quick break away as the clock ticked down, while Steele made the save of the match from Ritchie's close-range prod three minutes from time, the home keeper getting down well at the feet of Ritchie after good work from Kermorgant.

But Cherries had the last laugh when Cook saw his thumping header from Harte's corner saved by Steele before bundling the ball home with the Tykes keeper unable to do more.

Liverpool fight back

LUIS Suarez scored a hat-trick and Martin Skrtel struck twice as Liverpool underlined their Barclays Premier League title credentials in a thrilling encounter at Cardiff City Stadium.

Brendan Rodgers' team went behind on two occasions in the first-half as Jordan Mutch and then Fraizer Campbell struck for relegation-threatened Cardiff.

But Skrtel claimed Liverpool's second equaliser just before the break following Suarez's 16th-minute effort from close range before Cardiff were finished off during a devastating six-minute spell.

LUIS SUAREZ

Skrtel's 54th-minute header from a corner put Liverpool ahead for the first time, and then an audacious back-heel by Daniel Sturridge gave Suarez all the room he needed to make it six league wins on the bounce.

And Sturridge completed a second-half masterclass when he scored 15 minutes from time to continue Liverpool's irresistible form and keep Cardiff in deep trouble, despite Mutch claiming a consolation goal two minutes from the whistle as Liverpool triumphed 6-3 when Suarez pounced deep in injury time.

Liverpool remain four points behind leaders Chelsea with a game in hand, and Rodgers will breathe a sigh of relief after Cardiff arguably produced their best display during Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's managerial reign.

But when the Reds turned up the heat, Cardiff could not live with their precision passing and quality finishing, meaning they remain in the relegation zone with just seven games left.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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Saints Spotlight

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We've showed today that we are genuine contenders and we are going to fight to the end for this" - **Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard talks up his side's title hopes following their 3-0 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford.**

"I've not banned it (talk of the title). We have better things to talk about. We are up there on merit so of course we have an opportunity - I didn't say no chance. If you think we have a chance then write it" - **Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, speaking after the United win, still will not publicly declare his side can win the title, but is happy for other to say so.**

"The job was always going to be hard. Harder? Yes I would say so yes" **- Manchester United manager David Moyes admits his first season at Old Trafford after succeeding Sir Alex Ferguson is tougher than he ever imagined.**

"I am really disappointed to be missing out on going to a World T20 with England - it was a huge error in judgement following a frustrating tour for me and I deeply regret my behaviour" **- England all-rounder Ben Stokes on being ruled out of the World Twenty20 after punching a locker and breaking his hand during the five-run win over West Indies.**

"It was really weird. I woke up in Hong Kong and the news was about to break in Australia so it was really strange, and then the guys walked out at Adelaide [for the second Test] and things didn't go well and a feeling of guilt started kicking in" **- England batsman Jonathan Trott, above, opens up about leaving the Ashes tour early with a stress-related illness.**

"It feels great to be a two-time Six Nations winner. It's great to finish on a high in my last game in this magnificent jersey. When I do hang it up on the hook inside, it'll be with very fond memories. I'm absolutely delighted. There's a huge Irish contingent here. I'm glad we gave them something to shout about" **- Brian O'Driscoll after ending his international career by helping Ireland win the RBS 6 Nations with a 22-20 victory over France in Paris.**

"Maybe it's helpful that the (Premier League referees') committee doesn't send him (Chris Foy) to our matches. I don't have the right to request (that). It's just I think they have to analyse the situation and see if every time he has Chelsea - or not every time - but many times he has Chelsea and problems are there, I think maybe it would be a good decision" **- Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho after referee Chris Foy sends off the Portuguese and two Blues players in the 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa.**

LANE IS A HAPPY

COME ON, REF: Glenn Cockerill appeals as Saints lose at Tottenham in 1987.

SAINTS are heading to White Hart Lane on Sunday aiming for a seventh away league win of the Premier League season.

Down the years, there have been several great results at White Hart Lane ... and also several painful defeats too!

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at Saints' post-war league record at Tottenham.

September 9 1946
Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Doug McGibbon, the man who had opened Saints' first post-war season with a hat-trick on the opening day against Swansea, struck a consolation as Saints lost their third game of the campaign.

February 2 1948
Tottenham 0 Saints 0

April 4 1949
Tottenham 0 Saints 1

A remarkable crowd of almost 70,000 packed into White Hart Lane to see Second Division leaders Saints win with a late goal from Charlie Wayman.

Saints were eight points clear after that game, but ended third – just two points behind champions Fulham – after picking up only four points from their last seven games.

NIGHT TO FORGET: Steve Williams on the ball as Saints crash 6-0 at White Hart Lane in 1982.

February 25 1950
Tottenham 4 Saints 0

An even bigger attendance – 70, 302 – packed in to White Hart Lane to see Tottenham take another step towards the title.

Les Medley scored twice for Tottenham, who 12 months later lifted the First Division title at the first attempt.

November 26, 1966
Tottenham 5 Saints 3

Ron Davies put Saints into an early lead on their first ever top flight trip to White Hart Lane.

But the hosts hit back to lead 4-1 by half-time with goals from Cliff Jones (2), Alan Mullery and Dave Mackay.

Davies pulled a goal back for the visitors before Jimmy Greaves made it 5-2.

Terry Paine had the final say five minutes from time.

April 6 1986
Tottenham 6 Saints 1

Martin Chivers scored against his former club as Saints suffered a White Hart Lane thrashing.

Cliff Jones scored the only goal of the first half before Jimmy Greaves (2), Alan Mullery and an own goal from Denis Hollywood saw Saints 6-0 down on 75 minutes.

Ron Davies bagged a late consolation.

April 22, 1969
Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Ron Davies again supplied Saints' consolation, after Roger Morgan and Jimmy Greaves had put the hosts in control.

THE PINK: BEST FOR SAINTS NOSTALGIA

Saints Spotlight

HUNTING GROUND

HAT-TRICK: Jermain Defoe scores in a 5-1 thrashing of Saints in 2004.

GOAL: Matt Le Tissier scores at Tottenham in 1994. Ex-Saint Martin Chivers, above.

January 21 1970
Tottenham 0 Saints 1
That man Ron Davies netted just after the hour mark to give Saints their first ever First Division win at Tottenham.

January 16 1971
Tottenham 1 Saints 3
Saints hit back well after former Dell star Martin Chivers had opened the scoring in the third minute.
Mick Channon levelled before Saints scored twice in two minutes just before the interval.
First, Channon grabbed his second before Hughie Fisher scored from the edge of the penalty area.
Tottenham went onto finish the season third.

December 4 1971
Tottenham 1 Saints 0
Alan Gilzean grabbed a first half winner.

April 7 1973
Tottenham 1 Saints 2
Two goals in the last 11 minutes from Mick Channon gave Saints victory. Martin Peters had opened the scoring in the fifth minute.

April 13 1974
Tottenham 3 Saints 1
Martin Chivers netted twice as Saints suffered another late season defeat in a slump which was to end with relegation from the top flight.
Evans had provided Saints with a first half leveller.

December 3 1977
Tottenham 0 Saints 0
The two clubs drew their return fixture at The Dell also 0-0 to both win promotion back to the top flight the following April.

March 23 1979
Tottenham 0 Saints 0
The third successive goalless stalemate between the two clubs, who then drew 3-3 at The Dell a few weeks later!

March 2 1980
Tottenham 0 Saints 0
A third successive 0-0 stalemate at White Hart Lane.

December 26, 1980
Tottenham 4 Saints 4
The run of goalless draws was brought to an end with an eight-goal Boxing Day thriller.
Saints fell 2-0 down inside the first 25 minutes to Steve Archibald and Gary Brooke before Graham Baker and Charlie George replied before half-time.
Brooke and Garth Crooks restored Tottenham's two-goal lead in the second half before Steve Moran struck twice in the last 19 minutes, including an 87th minute leveller.

March 20 1982
Tottenham 3 Saints 2
Southampton-born defender Graham Roberts scored a remarkable hat-trick inside the first 51 minutes.
Graham Baker and David Armstrong reduced the deficit.

September 8 1982
Tottenham 6 Saints 0
Tony Galvin scored twice as Tottenham handed out a thrashing,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I don't think it would be a problem to make a donation to help young referees to have better conditions to improve a referees academy, this kind of situation or to improve kids with social problems or economical problems" **- Mourinho again, on what he would like to see done with the money if he is fined by the Football Association for his comments.**

"I do remember sort of passing out. I tried so hard in the race, taking a fall and then going through. But I'm all right. It's fine. It's not a big deal" **- Double Olympic champion Mo Farah plays down his collapse shortly after crossing the finishing line in the New York City half-marathon.**

"It's one of the worst days I've ever had in football" **- United striker Wayne Rooney following the defeat to Liverpool.**

"If Chelsea gives me the chance to arrive to 1,000 matches I'll be the happiest manager in the world" - **Mourinho again, admitting he hopes to match Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's 1000-game spell at his current club.**

"I always say that I believe in destiny and if I ever wanted to play again for this team, I think it could've happened a long time ago. As it didn't there's no problem with that. I'm really happy at Galatasaray" **- Former Chelsea striker and Blues icon Didier Drogba, right, has no hard feelings ahead of the Champions League tie between his old club and new club Galatasaray. Chelsea won 2-0 to go through to the quarter-finals with a 3-1 aggregate.**

"I'm eternally grateful to Ivan for all his hard work over the past two years - the most successful of my career so far. As a team, we've learned a lot and it will definitely be of benefit in the future. I'll take some time with the team to consider the next steps and how we progress from here" **- Andy Murray pays tribute to coach Ivan Lendl after their two-year association came to a surprise end.**

"I will always be in Andy's corner and wish him nothing but great success as he too goes into a new phase of his career. Working with Andy over the last two years has been a fantastic experience for me. He is a first-class guy" **- Lendl returns the compliment.**

"I don't want to come out here and say this is the moment (we turned things around), but in the same breath, I really hope it is. But we know the job we have in hand and we know it is a work in progress and it is going to take time to get things exactly the way we want it" **- Manchester United manager David Moyes is a relieved man after his side won the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie with Olympiacos 3-0 to progress 3-2 on aggregate.**

MORE SAINTS NEWS ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Saints Spotlight

BOOK of the WEEK

Cycle of Lies
The Fall of Lance Armstrong
By Juliet Macur
Sports book of the month price: £11.55 saving 32% on rrp

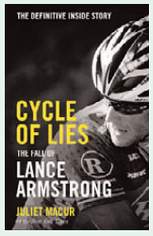
THERE'S been so much written about Lance Armstrong he probably warrants a library section to himself. And just when you thought you knew everything about the Texan's dirty deeds, along comes Juliet Macur with what is described as the 'definitive inside story' of his downfall.

Macur's book is certainly comprehensive, the product of ten years' worth of notes and interviews with all the major players (including the main protagonist himself) involved in Armstrong's extraordinary success and his protracted fall from grace.

The book splits into six parts covering periods during which layers of increasingly convoluted lies were carefully constructed around Armstrong. Some layers were applied retrospectively: for instance, his three-times-married mother claimed to have been a 'single mom' although she was married to Terry Armstrong (her second marriage) for 14 years.

Craving a father figure, Armstrong eventually found one in a professional athlete named Rick Crawford who taught him how to channel his aggression into triathlon success and introduced him to doping.

Yet the Armstrong dichotomy remains puzzling. He was an outstanding athlete, but he chose to cheat to guarantee victory he probably would have achieved anyway. By 1993, for example, he had allegedly taken part in a sting to defraud a US company of $1 million, but had also recorded his first Tour de France stage victory.



Much of the second part of this book, the 'Lies of the Sport' has been comprehensively covered elsewhere, though by the time we reach part five 'Lies of the American Hero', Macur is in full swing. We're introduced to Travis Tygart, a lawyer working for the USADA, who was suspicious of Armstrong's success and, more significantly, not intimidated by him.

Armstrong was earning phenomenal sums of money: in 2005, for example, Nike handed over $2.5 million in licensing fees. While he remained a superb athlete, his craving for money ensured he wasn't going to stop cheating.

Ultimately, however, the veneer of lies began to crack because too many of Armstrong's enemies knew too much. It only took a handful of them to say so and he was finished.

Macur successfully adds a new dimension to the Lance Armstrong story, though we can be sure this will not be the last book published dealing with the exploits of one of sport's biggest cheats.

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of CYCLE OF LIES to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (*www.sportsbookofthemonth.com*) and answer the following question:

How many times did Lance Armstrong 'win' the Tour de France before his feats were erased from the record books?

From page 11

RICH HISTORY OF SAINTS V SPURS

Tony Galvin scored twice as Tottenham handed out a thrashing, and could even afford the luxury of a missed penalty.

Saints were 2-0 down in 23 minutes, Galvin and Ricky Villa on target.

Second half goals followed from Steve Perryman – who also missed a penalty – Garth Crooks, Gary Brooke and Galvin again.

December 12, 1983
Tottenham 0 Saints 0

March 23 1985
Tottenham 5 Saints 1

Another White Hart Lane horror show for Lawrie McMenemy on what was Jimmy Case's Saints debut.

After Ossie Ardiles had put the hosts ahead, Danny Wallace levelled shortly into the second half.

But the hosts stormed to victory with Glenn Hoddle, Mark Falco, Garth Crooks and Gary Brookes all scoring.

May 5 1986
Tottenham 5 Saints 3

Two days after losing 6-1 at Everton, Saints' defence had another game to forget in what was the club's last league game of the campaign.

Tony Galvin belted a hat-trick with Glenn Hoddle and Clive Allen also netting as Tottenham took their tally to 23 in six home league games against Saints.

Danny Wallace, Craig Maskell and a Gary Mabbutt own goal handed Chris Nicholl's men their consolations.

February 14, 1987
Tottenham 2
Saints 0

Goals from Richard Gough and Steve Hodge gave the hosts victory.

September 19, 1987
Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Nico Claesen's 89th minute winner sentenced Saints to defeat.

Graham Baker had given the visitors the lead, with Clive Allen equalising.

October 25 1988
Tottenham 1 Saints 2

Glenn Cockerill's second half double, including an 82nd minute winner, saw Saints triumph after Ray Wallace's own goal had put the visitors in the lead.

May 5 1990
Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Andy Cook scored his only Saints league goal, but Paul Stewart and Clive Allen had already put Tottenham in control.

April 6 1991
Tottenham 2 Saints 0

Gary Lineker scored both goals in three minutes just before half-time, but his hopes of a hat-trick were dashed after the interval when Tim Flowers saved his penalty.

January 18 1992
Tottenham 1 Saints 2

Micky Adams and Iain Dowie scored, with Gary Mabbutt getting a late consolation for the hosts.

FLASHBACK: Emmanuel Mayuka fends off Spurs' Benoit Assou-Ekotto in 2013.

February 7 1993
Tottenham 4 Saints 2

Franny Benali was sent off in the second half with Saints 4-1 down.

Iain Dowie had put them ahead, before the hosts stormed back through Teddy Sheringham (2), Nick Barmby and Southampton-born Darren Anderton.

Richard Hall struck again late on for Saints.

April 23 1994
Tottenham 3 Saints 0

Goals from Steve Sedgely, Vinnie Samways and Darren Anderton sentenced Alan Ball's men to defeat.

September 12, 1994
Tottenham 1 Saints 2

Matt Le Tissier plundered a last minute winner for Saints in a game shown live on Sky.

Jurgen Klinnsmann put the hosts ahead early with Le Tissier levelling from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time.

Sol Campbell was sent off for Tottenham for giving away the penalty.

March 2, 1996
Tottenham 1 Saints 0

Jason Dozzell's 63rd minute goal proved decisive.

December 26, 1996
Tottenham 3 Saints 1

Steffan Iversen scored twice in the first half, including a 54 second opener.

After Matt Le Tissier had replied, Alan Neilsen had the final say.

May 10, 1998
Tottenham 1 Saints 1

Matt Le Tissier put Saints ahead in their last game of the season, with Jurgen Klinnsmann levelling.

March 2, 1999
Tottenham 3 Saints 0

Chris Armstrong, Steffan Iversen and Jose Dominquez were all on target.

November 20, 1999
Tottenham 1
Saints 0

Øyvind Leonhardsen scored the only goal as Jo Tessem suffered a losing Saints debut.

January 20, 2001
Tottenham 0 Saints 0

September 9, 2001
Tottenham 2 Saints 0

Goals in the last 16 minutes from Christian Ziege and Simon Davies give the hosts victory.

August 31, 2002
Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Teddy Sheringham scored an 89th minute penalty winner after Michael Svensson was sent off for a handball.

Les Ferdinand had put Tottenham ahead before Mauricio Tarrico put through his own goal.

September 20 2003
Tottenham 1 Saints 3

A famous win for Saints against the side managed by their former boss Glenn Hoddle.

James Beattie (2) and Kevin Phillips put Saints in control before Frederic Kanoute replies.

The defeat is the last straw for the White Hart Lane board, who sack Hoddle the following day.

December 18 2004
Tottenham 5 Saints 1

Saints endure a nightmare in Harry Redknapp's first away game as manager.

Redknapp's former West Ham striker Jermain Defoe nets a hat-trick with Frederic Kanoute and Robbie Keane piling on the agony.

Peter Crouch, a former Spurs trainee, nets Saints' consolation in what turns out to be Jason Dodd's last competitive outing for the club.

May 4 2013
Tottenham 1 Saints 0

Former Saints starlet Gareth Bale scores a stunning long-range winner four minutes from time.

MORE SAINTS NOSTALGIA ONLINE: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Saints Spotlight

HOSPITAL: Southampton stars pay a visit to Southampton General Hospital this week.

SAINTS STARS JET IN

SAINTS players visited Southampton General this week to spread some cheer among the hospital's young patients.

A host of first-team stars toured the wards, posing for photos, signing autographs, handing out gifts and speaking to the children and their families.

Midfielder Steven Davis said: "It's been great, and hopefully we've brightened their day up a little bit and put a smile on their face. It's a privilege to do that.

"You can't imagine how hard it is for them and their parents, but it's nice to just be able to come round and try and put a smile on their face and brighten their day up from the daily routine."

Healthcare play specialist Claire Pickett said: "It's been a real buzz about them coming in.

"It's brilliant that they come down and that they do so much for us, and just do so much for the families and the kids, because they don't have to do it. It's just lovely that they can come and spend some time with them."

Holly Radford, secondary class teacher at Bursledon House, one of the areas Saints visited at the hospital, said: "For a lot of our students, they're often of a lower mood and can be very anxious, and are often very low in self-esteem and confidence, so to have such a big team – people who are famous and that are important – come and visit them, makes them feel like they're really valued.

"It's often one of their really long-lasting memories of being somewhere like this."

SHOT: Saints keeper Artur Boruc tries out the basketball court

VISIT: Joe Skully with Rickie Lambert and Jack Cork. Order: 18168960

PIC: Paige Curtis and son Vinnie-Joe with Saints stars. Order: 18168884

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS

Sports Quiz

1. Which club did Arsene Wenger manage to the Ligue 1 title in the 1987-88 season?
2. Who won gold in the men's skeleton at last month's Winter Olympic Games in Sochi?
3. How many grand slam titles did Ivan Lendl win as a player?
4. Against which nation did Stuart Broad register his first, and so far only, Test century?
5. American boxer Peter Quillin holds a world title in which weight division?
6. Which former F1 driver claimed his one and only career victory at the 1996 Monaco Grand Prix?
7. Newcastle midfielder Dan Gosling began his career at which club?
8. British basketball star Luol Deng plays for which NBA team?
9. On how many occasions did Ivan Lendl appear in the final of a grand slam tennis tournament?
10. In which single year did the following take place? Jackie Stewart won his first F1 drivers' title, Highland Wedding won the Grand National and Manchester City defeated Leicester 1-0 in the FA Cup final.
11. How many South African players are in the top 30 of the golf world rankings?
12. Serena Williams won the French Open, US Open and Wimbledon grand slam titles in 2002, but which woman won the Australian Open in that year?
13. Who beat Rangers in the 2008 UEFA Cup final?
14. West Indies opener Chris Gayle has played county cricket for which side?
15. Jim Mallinder is director of rugby at which Aviva Premiership side?
16. Name the three nations who this week played at the World Twenty20 tournament for the first time?
17. How many Tests did Brian O'Driscoll play before his retirement at the weekend?
18. Name the the lowest-ranked nation heading into this summer's football World Cup?
19. Which country is golfer Victor Dubuisson from?
20. How many Grand Slam titles has Rafael Nadal won?
21. Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa recently made his Spain debut against which country?
22. How many Six Nations titles has Brian O'Driscoll won?
23. Which horse won the 2013 Grand National?
24. How many Test centuries has Jonathan Trott scored for England - nine, 14 or 19?
25. Who has won the most grand slam singles titles out of Justine Henin, Venus Williams and Monica Seles?

Answers: 1 Monaco; 2 Alexander Tretiakov; 3 Eight; 4 Pakistan; 5 Middleweight; 6 Olivier Panis; 7 Plymouth; 8 Cleveland Cavaliers; 9 19; 10 1969; 11 One (Charl Schwartzel); 12 Jennifer Capriati; 13 Zenit St Petersburg; 14 Worcestershire; 15 Northampton; 16 Nepal, United Arab Emirates & Hong Kong; 17 141; 18 Australia (63rd);19 France; 20 13; 21 Italy; 22 Two; 23 Auroras Encore; 24 Nine; 25 Monica Seles (nine).

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £47,000

or £3,050 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

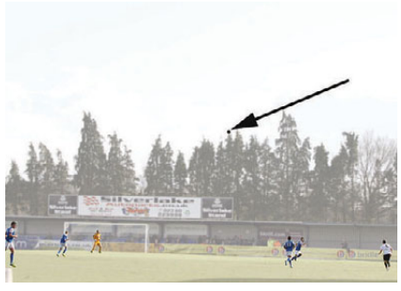
If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday 9am, 27 March 2014
Names of winners will be published on **Saturday, 29 March or Sunday 30 March 2014**

Winners

Competition number **S09**

JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS
Mr T Milton, Bournemouth, Dorset
who wins the nearest miss prize of £3,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

Mrs L Adams, Southampton, Hants
Mrs J Bevis, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Buckman, Southampton, Hants
Mr N Bull, Southampton, Hants
V Crickmore, Southampton, Hants
Mr P Dromey, Southampton, Hants
Mr S Edser, Totton, Hants
Mrs M Freeman, Southampton, Hants
Mr M Gillett, Eastleigh, Hants
Mr R Hatfield, Southampton, Hants
Mrs S Kemish, Southampton, Hants
Ms C Longmore, Southampton, Hants
Mr M McDonald, Warsash, Hants
Mrs V Merriman, Totton, Hants
Mr K Murtagh,, Southampton, Hants
Mr M Reynolds, Totton, Hants
Mr D Thomas, Southampton, Hants
Mrs M Thomas, Southampton, Hants
Mr E Webb, Southampton, Hants
Mr J Wiseman, Southampton, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '& Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy.

An incident in an Eastleigh v Tonbridge match

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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Southern Daily Echo
12noon Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
Bournemouth Echo
closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo
10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

CASH PRIZE EVERY WEEK

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Competitions
Southampton
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Cheques payable to Newsquest

Non-league Action

SHOCK START: Fawley's Ben Murphy scores their first goal against Sydenhams Wessex League title chasers Sholing. Picture: Stuart Martin

SHOLING SLIP UP

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Fawley 2 Sholing 2

By Mike Vimpany

FAWLEY 2 SHOLING 2

RELEGATION battlers Fawley rocked Sholing with two goals in five early first half minutes for the Sydenhams Wessex League title favourites fought back to force a 2-2 draw in an all-action affair at Holbury.

The FA Vase semi-finalists looked in serious danger of surrendering their 29-match unbeaten record when quality strikes by Ben Murphy and Matt Vining fired the Watersiders 2-0 ahead inside 11 minutes.

But Sholing, controversially denied a goal of their own late in the first half, hit back through substitute Barry Mason and Marvin McLean, whose equaliser came midway through the second period.

Sholing hit the Fawley woodwork five times in the second half, but were unable to clinch a winner.

Playing their fourth game in eight days, Sholing rang the changes in order to keep players fresh for next Saturday's Vase semi-final first leg showdown with Eastbourne Town.

But manager Dave Diaper's changed team were all at sea for the bulk of the first half and fell behind to two cracking shots as second-to-bottom Fawley came out of the traps at speed.

BEN MURPHY fired Fawley into a fifth minute lead with a fizzing cross-strike from the edge of the box.

In their next attack Fawley struck again with an equally fine goal – **VINING** burying a superbly struck free kick into the top corner.

Visibly wobbling and up against a side battling for their immediate SWL futures, Sholing gradually worked their way back into the game but half-chances went begging.

Dan Loader – remarkably the 11th player to don the Fawley goalkeeping jersey this season – beat out a Kevin Brewster shot with his outstretched legs.

On the half-hour Sholing had what appeared to be a perfectly good goal disallowed.

Brewster's free kick smacked against the inside of Fawley's right-hand upright.

Loader flung himself to his left to make a partial one-handed save – but was unable to prevent the ball from trickling across the line at the far post.

Pete Castle followed up to make sure but was flagged offside by the referee's assistant and the "goal" was disallowed.

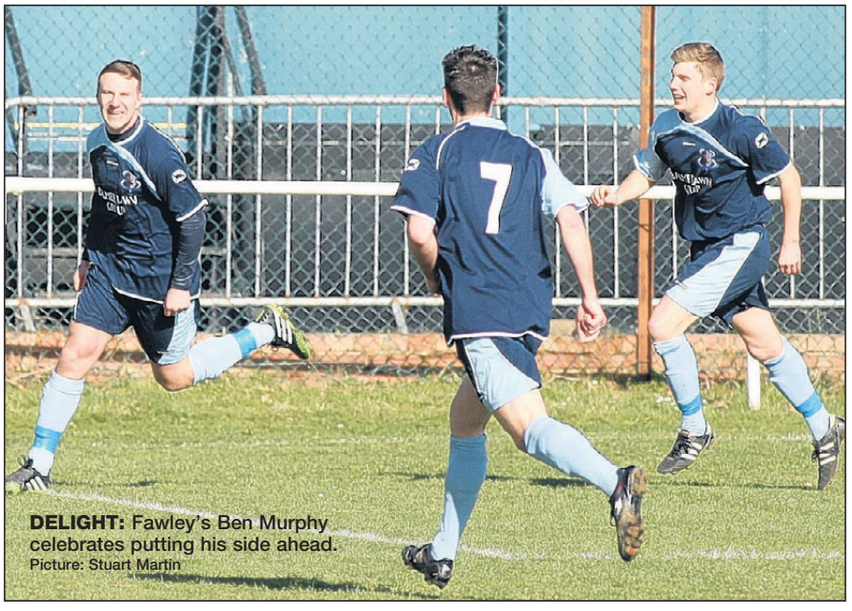
Fawley were putting in a massive shift and almost added a third before half-time as Callum Earl sent a shot just wide.

The second half was largely one-way traffic towards then Fawley goal substitute **BARRY MASON** eventually reducing the deficit after the influential McLean had carved out the opportunity on the left.

The tenacious Watersiders fought for all they were worth, Loader pulling off a string of fine saves before Sholing equalised through **McLEAN,** who converted a cross from Lewis Fennemore at the near post.

Sholing threw everything forward, repeatedly hitting the woodwork but were unable to break Fawley down for what would have been a winning goal.

DOUBLE DELIGHT: Fawley's Matt Vining celebrates after scoring Fawley's second goal. Picture: Stuart Martin



DELIGHT: Fawley's Ben Murphy celebrates putting his side ahead. Picture: Stuart Martin

Eastleigh knocked off the top

SKRILL CONFERENCE SOUTH

Staines Town 0 Eastleigh 0

EASTLEIGH maintained their unbeaten record at Staines' Wheatsheaf Park ground, but they surrendered their position at the top of the table as Bromley won 6-1 at home to Maidenhead.

It was also the first league game in which Eastleigh had failed to score since August, *writes Maloclm Clarke.*

Craig McAllister had probably the best chance from open play to score but his effort was well wide.

Towards the end, Ben Wright forced a save from Turner but Southam's follow-up shot was off target.

Both teams had promising attacking moments, but generally the final ball was lacking and the attacks broke down before a shot on goal was produced. Worsfold and Dos-Santos both came close for Staines, but in the end it was a goal-less draw.

At least for Eastleigh it was another away game out of the way and they can now look forward to the visit of Dorchester on Tuesday.

Eastleigh had recalled Jai Reason and Yemi Odubade to their starting line-up with Reece Connolly suspended and Stuart Fleetwood injured. There were also places on the substitutes' bench for Lee Peacock and Will Evans.

A strong breeze did not make good football easy but the nearest Eastleigh had to a goal in the first half was when Dean Beckwith fouled Dos-Santos and the normally prolific Louie Theophanous put his penalty kick wide.

Eastleigh forced several corners and Ben Wright had a shot that went just across the face of goal. Luke Neville also made an important interception to deny Wright.

At the other end Dos-Santos and Calum Willock had chances for Staines as the game finished goal-less at the interval.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Dovey's Oz transfer

EASTLEIGH have received an international transfer request for Jack Dovey from Australian side Cobram Victory.

The 21-year-old former Saints Academy goalkeeper, pictured below, was released from his Spitfires contract last month to pursue his footballing career Down Under.

Dovey, who made more than 60 appearances for Eastleigh after joining them in October 2011, will be reunited with another former Spitfire at his new club.

The Cobram skipper is Adam Gatcum who made just one first-team appearance for the Stoneham Lane club in the 2008/09 season away at Fleet Town in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

Cobram are a Victoria-based side who compete in the Goulburn North East Football Association Division.

Ex-Saint released

EX-SAINT Jason St Juste has ended his brief association with Skrill Conference South outfit Whitehawk.

The left-back, below, who followed former Saints coach Simon Clifford to St Mary's following spells with Garforth Town and the Leeds Brazilian Soccer School, has been released by recently appointed Whitehawk boss Steve King after just two first-team appearances.

St Juste – who never played a first-team game for Saints – was heralded as a coup when he arrived at Whitehawk, but the 28-year-old is understood to have been struggling with the travelling from his Leeds base.

King's latest clear-out at the Brighton-based outfit has also seen former Eastleigh wideman Ashley Carew return to his parent club Dover Athletic after a month at the Enclosed Ground.

The Hawks remain deep in relegation trouble following a 4-1 home defeat by top-of-the-table Eastleigh on Tuesday.

SAM FEELS EASTLEIGH SQUEEZE

Wilson leaves Silverlake in push for first-team football

EASTLEIGH EXIT: Sam Wilson, centre, pictured during his first spell at the Silverlake.

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

SAM Wilson's second stay at Eastleigh is over.

The pacy young striker has left the Silverlake Stadium and signed for Sydenhams Wessex Premier outfit Winchester City.

Wilson first broke onto the Eastleigh first-team scene under former manager Ian Baird and scored twice in a trial match for Fulham's academy side on his 17th birthday in October 2011.

The West End lad then spent a season away from the Silverlake with Gosport Borough and Poole Town before returning to the Spitfires under current boss Richard Hill last summer.

At the time Hill said it was vital to try and attract the best young talent in the area and that training with the likes of Ben Strevens, Craig McAllister and Glen Southam etc would only improve him as a player.

But with Eastleigh's pedigree squad closing in on promotion to the Skrill Conference Premier Division, Hill has been unable to gamble with youngsters in such high-stakes games, prompting Wilson to try his luck elsewhere.

An Eastleigh statement said: "Sam Wilson has decided, owing to his restricted opportunities with the wealth of strike force currently at the Silverlake Stadium, to move on to pastures new to claim a regular first-team spot.

"Sam joins former Spitfires Callum Casson, Leigh Mills, Liam Green, Adam Roberts, Chris Mason, Sam House and Ryan Holloway at City.

"He leaves the Silverlake having made a total of 43 appearances and scoring seven goals in the first-team."

Wilson netted on his Winchester debut at Brockenhurst last Saturday, albeit that the afternoon ended in a 3-2 defeat.

Welcoming the young gun into the City fold, director of football Dave Malone – who knows all about Wilson from his Eastleigh days – said: "Sam is a young striker with a bright future ahead of him.

"With first-team chances very limited at Eastleigh, Sam has joined us in the hope of regular football and an opportunity to demonstrate his undoubted talent.

"With the recent signing of Taz Roberts, along with Chris Flood and Daryl Phillips, we now have a potentially formidable strike force. Let's hope we can show that in the remaining games of the season."

Winchester, though, drew a blank on Tuesday, albeit in an entertaining 0-0 draw at reigning Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division champions Blackfield & Langley.

No-show forces Wheeler exit

FORMER Eastleigh and Weymouth winger Darren Wheeler has been released by Slough Town after a no-show.

It is understood the pacy wideman, pictured right, failed to turn up for Slough's recent 1-0 Calor Southern One Central win over St Ives Town after only being named as a substitute.

A statement from Rebels managers Neil Baker and Jon Underwood said: "Darren has now played under us as managers for almost three years, rarely ever being out of the side and, on his day, is as good as anyone in this league.

"Unfortunately when Darren found out on Saturday morning that he would be on the bench, he decided he would be taking his daughter out for the day.

"We informed Darren that this was not acceptable and if he was not attending then we would have no option but to release him."

Super Mac: McEnery maintains Town run

WITH ten minutes to play at home to Whitchurch on Tuesday, Alresford Town were close to achieving an unwanted 'first'.

The free-scoring Magpies went into the Sydenhams Premier meeting boasting the proud record of netting at least one goal in every league game since the start of September.

But just when it looked as if the hard-working Jam Boys would finally shut them out, super sub Mike 'Dookie' McEnery popped up with a quickfire hat-trick to carry the Magpies to an unlikely 3-0 win.

The former Newport IoW and Havant & Waterlooville attacker made his entrance midway through the second half in place of Suhael Odeh.

ZACH GLASSPOOL: Netted in the midweek win at Fareham.

As substitutions go, it was a truly inspired one.

On 82 minutes Dominic Cope's looping cross eluded the outstretched leg of Warren Bentley and fell perfectly for McEnery to open his account at the far post.

The celebrations had barely subsided when he doubled his tally, this time getting on the end of Warren Bentley's low centre from the left.

McEnery completed his hat-trick in added time when Cope and Steve Hall carved open an erstwhile stubborn visiting defence on the left. The ball was cleared, but only as far as Joe Wright on the edge of the box.

Wright could have gone for glory, but unselfishly squared to McEnery to jubilantly squeeze a shot under goalkeeper Alex Thompson.

The goals were Alresford's 100th, 101st and 102nd of another superb league season.

Alresford added three more goals to their tally with a 3-1 win at Fareham on Thursday evening.

Warren Bentley, Zach Glasspool and Michael McEnery netted. Graham Lindsey replied for the hosts.

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

Ex-Saint Matt joins Hawks

EX-SAINT Matt Paterson has joined Havant & Waterlooville on loan from Aldershot Town.

The 6ft 3in, 24-year-old striker made an unexpectedly early debut on Monday night as the Hawks got their Skrill Conference South play-off push back on track with a 1-0 home win over Ebbsfleet.

With the game just 16 minutes old, Paterson was brought off the bench to replace the limping Dennis Oli.

But it was another substitute – former Winchester City and Newport IoW man Alek Przespolewski – who secured victory in the 76th minute, just seconds after replacing Perry Ryan.

Former Southampton defender Pedro 'Pele' Monteiro cleverly headed a deep free-kick into the area for 'Przes' to guide a low shot into the far corner.

Hawks new boy Paterson was born in Dunfermline and educated at the Neville Lovett Community School in Fareham.

He started his career in the youth system at AFC Bournemouth before joining the Saints Academy in 2007.

He made his first-team debut as a substitute against Norwich City at St Mary's in 2008 and went on to make 17 appearances for the club.

Paterson moved to Southend United in January 2010 and played for Burton Albion before returning to his home county of Hampshire with Aldershot last summer.

SAINTS DAYS: Matt Paterson, right, tussles with Manchester United's Dimitar Berbatov.

UNSUNG HERO: BOWERS HAILS BARRON CLASS

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JAMIE Barron is not a player who regularly hogs the headlines, but Folland Sports manager Danny Bowers reckons it's high time he was.

So it was a pleasure to see the Planemakers' skipper, known affectionately as Baz, thrust firmly into the spotlight with a sweetly-taken treble in last Saturday's 6-1 victory at Lymington Town.

"It was great seeing Baz score a hat-trick because he's been our unsung hero for a while now," said the boss.

"He makes goals for everyone else and I think he's on 16 for the season now himself, which isn't bad from the centre of the park.

"Jamie just goes about his business quietly, but he's been a fantastic skipper this year and last Saturday's was a proper captain's performance."

Barron is in his fourth season with Follands having joined them from Hamworthy United.

"With all the players that left the club last summer, he was the obvious choice to become captain and he's been great," said Bowers.

"Ryan Gosney's the vice-captain and does all the fines etc and Jamie's our captain on the park.

"He's only about 23 or 24 but we've got such a young side these days.

"Me, Monkey (James Roden) and Baz travelled down to Lymington together last week and Monkey was laughing because I'd described him as the 'old man' of the side – and he's only 27!

"It's crazy really because Jamie Betteridge is still 16, Ryan Fuller's only 17 or 18 and Matt Burt's 19 – they're all so young!

"This league is probably the strongest it's been for a few seasons with Sholing, Winchester, Alresford, Blackfield, Portchester and Newport and yet we're sat *fourth – and deservedly so."

The Lymington result, featuring goals by Barron (3), Roden, Betteridge, Ryan Long, made it nine wins and a draw from Follands' last ten league games.

"The lads have been fantastic, they really have," smiled Bowers.

"They've got no fear and are playing some really good football.

"All credit to them and the coaching staff. Dave Lewis and Darren Burdle have done so well with them.

"Our chairman said to me the other day that if we'd had this form at the beginning of the season we'd be going for the title now.

"But I said, no, if we'd had this form at the beginning of the season, we'd be bottom by now because other clubs would have come in and taken all our players!"

*Follands slipped to fifth on goal difference to Newport IoW (Tom Scovell, Charlie Smeeton) on Monday following the Islanders' 2-0 win at Christchurch

With goalkeeper Gosney starting a three-match suspension today (Saturday) and his understudy Sam Scrase holidaying in Mexico, Follands have signed former Sholing 'keeper Scott O'Rourke who recently parted company with Brockenhurst.

UNSUNG HERO: Follands' Jamie Barron, left.

Non-league News

Striker to stopper

FORMER Sydenhams Wessex hotshot Simba Mlambo swopped his No9 jersey for the No1 playing for Fleet Town on Monday.

After putting Fleet in front after just four minutes of the Calor Southern One South & West basement battle against Guildford City, the ex-Alton Town marksman took over between the sticks after goalkeeper Ryan Pryce had been sent off for a professional foul.

Guildford equalised from the resultant penalty and went on to score twice more.

Fleet were awarded a spot kick of their own on 57 minutes, scored by Southampton-based player-manager Craig Davis, formerly of Bashley, Salisbury City and AFC Totton.

But it was not enough to ward off a 3-2 defeat that left the north Hampshire club stranded at the bottom of the table and facing an uphill struggle against relegation.

Portch go with Noakes

AFC PORTCHESTER have boosted their ranks with the signing of defender Joe Noakes from Havant & Waterlooville.

Noakes – a product of the Hawks academy – made his debut in a 1-1 draw with Blackfield & Langley last Saturday when Louie Castles' equaliser wiped out Jack Satterley's earlier strike for the Watersiders.

On Tuesday Portchester got back to winning ways with a 4-0 home defeat of relegation-battling Romsey Town. Jack Salter-Vaile bagged two, backed by singles from Danny Thompson and Jake Thomson (pictured above) – the ex-Saint's first goal for the club.

Spitfires mourn Melvin

EASTLEIGH FC supporter Melvin Lewis has passed away at the age of 77.

A former RAF man, Melvin loved his visits to the Silverlake and took great pride in having a Spitfires shirt made up for him.

His Hedge End-based nephew Steve 'Coxy' Cox is one of Eastleigh's most enthusiastic fans and a member The Spitfires Supporters' Club (TSSC).

Rest in peace Melvin.

CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Double trouble for rock-bottom Town

ROCK-BOTTOM Dorchester Town were hit by a severe double blow at Chelmsford City on Monday night.

The Magpies – due to visit title hopefuls Eastleigh this Tuesday (March 25) – had their Skrill Conference survival hopes hit by a crushing 4-1 defeat.

To compound their misery, skipper Mark Jermyn was forced off with a hamstring injury which boss Phil Simkin reckons could rule him out for the rest of the season.

After a blank first half, two goals in the space of five second-half minutes left Dorch reeling and they went on to concede twice more either side of Charlie Losasso's 87th-minute consolation effort.

Chelmsford may well have had a fifth if Magpies 'keeper Alan Walker-Harris hadn't managed to tip sub Luke Callander's shot onto the post.

"We defended well in the first half, but we conceded twice in five minutes in the second half and struggled after that," admitted Simkin.

Monday's result was the last thing Dorchester needed after last Saturday's slender 1-0 defeat at Bath City.

After a good first-half performance, they conceded in the 47th minute and had veteran midfielder Nick Crittenden sent off for a second bookable offence.

Petersfield sign on a new stopper

SYDENHAMS Wessex League Cup finalists Petersfield Town have added a new goalkeeper to their ranks.

The Love Lane outfit have signed Tony Harrop, who has spent the last three seasons with Totton & Eling and lists Gosport Borough, Fareham Town and Hayling United among his former clubs.

Ian Saunders' Sydenhams One promotion chasers claimed their eighth Premier Division scalp of the season to book their place in the League Cup final with a 3-2 win over Whitchurch United.

Petersfield twice came from behind (Mike Asare, Rob Tambling) to win with a Joe Richardson injury-time header.

They await the winners of the delayed semi-final between holders Alresford Town and Sholing, to be played at Winchester's Denplan City Ground on April 1.

Killick in referee row

TOM Killick blasted the performance of referee Adam Penwell after being sent to the stands during Poole Town's incident-packed 4-2 win over Frome on Monday night.

Killick was dismissed after marching down the touchline to confront Penwell who had taken no action against visiting defender Josh Ford for his reaction to Michael Charles' late tackle.

A mass skirmish ensued, but only ex-AFC Totton striker Charles was booked – a decision which enraged the Dolphins boss.

"Michael, quite rightly, got a yellow card, but the reaction of their players basically constituted an assault," Killick claimed.

"He (Charles) said he had been hit four or five times, but the referee indicated there was nothing wrong which everyone in the ground could see was ludicrous.

"That shouldn't happen on a football pitch and when the offender gets away with absolutely no punishment while referees regularly dish out yellow cards for trips and minor dissent, you start to wonder what it's all about."

"It really grates when someone is the perpetrator of that level of violence and no action gets taken."

It was just one of several controversial calls made by the Weston-super-Mare official with Frome insistent Will Spetch should have been sent off for denying veteran former Eastleigh striker Matt Groves an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

Even Killick admitted: "Their forward was at a bit of an angle, but was clean through with a significant chance of scoring.

"I feared the worst, but the referee's decision went in our favour and was the first of many incorrect ones.

"Sometimes players have games where they can't do anything right and I suppose referees are entitled to have days where they are incapable of making any correct decisions. Unfortunately, that's what happened."

Jamie Whisken and Ekow Elliott put Poole two up before Frome hit back through Jack Vallis and a Kris Miller penalty after Penwell had penalised ex-Blackfield winger Elliott for handball.

Steve Devlin restored the Dolphins' advantage with a dipping 30-yarder before striking again from the spot following a trip on Elliott. The drama continued right to the end with Frome striker Ricky Hulbert dismissed for violent conduct two minutes from time.

Poole had a smoother ride of it on Wednesday – three first-half strikes by Charles, Marvin Brooks and Devlin (penalty) earning them a 3-0 victory at Corby Town.

The Northamptonshire-based Steelmen, who are knee-deep in problems on and off the pitch, fielded a makeshift side with several of their senior players refusing to play in protest at their continued non-payment.

History-maker

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

GOSPORT goal machine Justin Bennett admitted he owed a massive debt to Poole Town after finally etching his name into Borough history last Saturday.

The 31-year-old bagged his second brace in three days to reach 193 Borough goals and proudly enter the record books as the Privett Park club's all-time leading scorer.

It capped a hugely productive week for the former Andover and Eastleigh hotshot.

Having scored twice against AFC Totton on his last game on loan at Poole on the Tuesday, Bennett returned to his parent club and banged in another double in Borough's 2-1 Skrill Conference South victory over Maidenhead.

He then repeated the feat last Saturday as FA Trophy finalists Gosport hauled themselves out of the relegation zone with another priceless 2-1 win, this time beating Boreham Wood on home soil.

First Bennett equalled Richie Coulbert's all-time best mark of 192 goals with a predatory close-range finish from Josh Carmichael's whipped-in delivery.

Then, with his wife, dad and other family members willing him on, the deadly finisher collected skipper Jamie Brown's pass, created space and classily clipped his record-breaking second into the far corner.

Afterwards Bennett acknowledged that his spell on loan with Poole in the Southern Premier Division had done him the power of good.

He said: "Before I went out on loan I wasn't playing particularly well and I wasn't scoring goals.

"There were times when I thought maybe I wouldn't do it (break the record) even though I only had four to go.

"I couldn't see at the time where the goals were coming from.

"But going to Poole to get a bit of confidence has done me the world of good and, luckily, I've managed to get the record done in the two games since I've been back."

Thanking others for their contribution, he added: "I haven't done it on my own. Over seven seasons with Gosport, I've played with a lot of good players here.

"I'd like to give credit to everyone I've played with over that period and I owe a massive debt to Poole Town.

"The strikers weren't scoring here (at Gosport) and we were being constantly reminded of that fact, so I was playing with that pressure on me.

"Going out to Poole meant I could just play football and enjoy it.

"They took me on and dropped important players to play me. But it made me remember how to play football.

"Breaking the record had been playing on my mind for a while, so it's great to get it done."

Bennett's return from Poole couldn't have been timelier coming just ahead of today's FA Trophy final trip to Wembley.

"It's incredible how far Gosport have come with two promotions and now Wembley," he grinned.

"It feels like an amazing time to be at the club.

"There have been some down times over the years, but right now I can't remember any of them! They're all happy times at the moment."

After a run of four games undefeated, Borough came a cropper 2-0 at Paul Doswell's in-form Sutton United on Tuesday – Gavin McCallum and Jamie Taylor getting the Us' goals.

Rampant Sutton almost had a third, but Jamie Slabber's header was cleared off the line by ex-Eastleigh teammate Andy Forbes.

Going into today's trip to Dorchester Town, on-song Sutton had yet to be beaten in 2014, winning nine and drawing two of their 11 league games.

RECORD MAN: Justin Bennett has been in goalscoring form again.

ANDY FORBES: Goal-line clearance.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD – SEE PAGE 42

Non-league Football

Barker spot on

Treble includes two penalties

RECENT Bashley target Mark Barker was rewarded for his loyalty to Brockenhurst last Saturday.

Wendy Gee
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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Having turned down a move to Brock's Southern League neighbours, the steadfast wideman helped himself to hat-trick in the Badgers' 3-2 Sydenhams Premier win over Winchester City.

Though still a young man, Barker classifies as a Brock stalwart having first joined the Grigg Lane ranks in 2009.

He weighed in with nine Wessex goals last season as the New Forest club booked their return ticket to the top-flight as Sydenhams One champions.

And he has already surpassed that with 12 this term as the Badgers home in on a top-half finish in their first season back.

Barker put Brock one up against Winchester, latching onto Brad Magookin's through ball before calmly lobbing 'keeper Ross Casey.

Sam Wilson equalised, but Barker then struck twice from the penalty spot – first after handball and then following a foul on Will Tickle – to put the Badgers in the driving seat before substitute Ryan Holloway bagged City's late consolation.

Reflecting on the hat-trick hero's contribution, Brock boss Pat McManus said: "I'm pleased for Mark. He's responded ever so well after we underlined how much we wanted him to stay.

NEIL HARDS

"He can be a thorn in any team's side."

Having managed Winchester's reserves last season, McManus had certainly done his homework on his old club.

"It was a good performance by us and we got what we deserved," he said.

"Our training was based on how we would unlock the Winchester defence and we decided to be a bit more direct to exploit the weaknesses we'd identified," he explained.

"Winchester like to play three at the back and push their wing-backs on and one ball over the top was beating them all the time.

"Millsy (Leigh Mills) had a torrid time against Mark Barker. The scoreline sounds close, but it could have been more.

"Their manager Neil Hards was very gracious and said we thoroughly deserved to win – and we did. People will say Winchester had an off-day, but you've got to make them have that off-day and we were sharper than them."

McManus's one criticism of his side is their baffling inconsistency.

Brock were similarly dominant in a 4-1 win against reigning Wessex champions Blackfield & Langley a couple of weeks back, but then let standards drop in a 2-0 defeat at Bournemouth Poppies.

"I keep trying to underline to the lads that we've got to try and fear no one and respect everyone, but we keep falling down on the second bit," he said.

"They tend to approach certain games like it's a given, but I don't do that and I don't expect them to either.

"But a lot of them are still kids and we've got one eye on next year. We've got a good little group here and everything is pointing in the right direction.

"When we stick to the game plan, like we did against Winchester, we look a decent side. We'll always create chances but it's a case of cutting out individual errors."

Typically of Brock, they again followed a high with a low, well beaten 3-0 at home by Moneyfields on Wednesday.

Rob Evans' first-half double sent Moneys on their way before impressive former Romsey midfielder Stuart Green added a third after the break.

HAT-TRICK HERO: Mark Barker's goals gave Brockenhurst a 3-2 win over Winchester City.

Andover march on

ANDOVER Town kept their Sydenhams One title rivals at arm's length with a 2-0 derby win over Andover New Street at Foxcotte Park last Saturday.

But Town didn't have it easy against a threadbare New Street squad spearheaded by teenage duo Tom Crozier and Charlie Waite - just 17 and 16 respectively.

Two former New Street players – Oliver Yates, pictured right, and Lewis Alderman – scored the goals which kept Town comfortably ahead of rivals Petersfield in the race for top spot.

But, if anything, it was New Street's Matt Styles who wound up the more satisfied of the two managers.

"Again I had five players pull out in the morning so I had to play Prince Zhamela at centre-half for the first time and he did very well," said Styles.

"Also young Tom Crozier played out of goal for the second time in his life but, despite all that, the dressing room was not happy as they believed they could have got more."

Styles' opposite number, Town's Neil Benson, admitted: "This was a rare game which we have been involved in which was totally uninspiring.

"In truth, a number of our squad were carrying knocks and we found it difficult on a near impossible pitch, but the result was paramount and never in doubt.

"A clean sheet with a reshuffled defence and the three points were the positives."

Chasing Petersfield and Cowes Sports both won in midweek, but Benson said: "We have six league games left (starting at home to Laverstock & Ford today), whereas our rivals are playing catch-up. We will see how their squads cope with the pressure."

Fourth-placed Hythe & Dibden also secured a midweek victory, beating US Portsmouth 2-0 at Jones Lane thanks to goals from Simon Davison and John Mulhern.

But there was a Monday night set-back for fifth-placed Team Solent, beaten 3-1 by Fleet Spurs at Test Park.

Non-league News

Best win of season for ten-man Millers

WINNING with a threadbare squad at Newport IoW is right up there as one of the high points of Totton & Eling's troubled season.

But, in co-boss Stuart Hussey's eyes, the Millers surpassed even that great achievement on Tuesday night with an extraordinary 2-1 victory at Horndean.

Having raced into an early lead with a 25-yard Ben Thompson free kick, the relegation-battling Millers had Byron Gharibian red-carded for a dangerously high tackle on George Way with just 17 minutes gone.

Horndean piled on the pressure and deservedly levelled shortly before half-time when Mark Smith latched onto Lenny Burney's clever flick and knocked the ball past Millers No1 Kevin O'Rourke before rolling it into an empty net.

Far from crumbling, the ten-man Millers grew in strength in the second half and clinched all three points when leading marksman Dougie Rowe, pictured, exploited a bad touch by the goalkeeper.

With the hour mark approaching, Rowe determinedly closed down the hesitant Tom Boyle, stole the ball and coolly tapped home the winner.

"I thought winning with a bare 11 at Newport was our best three points of the season, but playing for 73 minutes with ten men and winning was even better," smiled a disbelieving Hussey.

"Horndean were all over us towards the end of the first half but we defended for our lives and then came back out and dominated.

"They didn't really have a shot at goal in the second half, only efforts from 20 or 30 yards, but we had chances through Dougie Rowe, Carl Spencer and Ed Zanin. We worked hard and outplayed and out-passed them.

"It's amazing really. After going down to ten, it was the hardest three points we could possibly have got – and yet we got them!

"It's our best win of the season."

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS ARE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Eastleigh & District Mini League picture special

ACTION: Salisbury United (blue) v Salisbury City (white). Order: 18149690

MATCH ACTION: Sholing Reds U10s (red/white stripes) v St Francis Knights. Order: 18149719

TACKLE: Sholing Reds U10s (red/white stripes) v St Francis Knights. Order: 18149698

ABOVE: Sholing Reds U10 team photo. Order: 18149067

LEFT: St Francis Knights team photo. Order: 18149086

ON THE BALL: Sholing Reds U10 (red/white stripes) v St Francis Knights. Order: 18149757

PACE COUGARS: Back (from Lee, Chaz Hull, Billy Rolls, Cal (from left) Ethan Chapman, Elli Prisk.

PACE Cougars have won the the Southampton Tyro Leag section.

They were crowned champions tenth win in 12 matches last week Southampton 3-2.

Pace's title triumph came just they won Division 2 of the Tyro's

PARTY TIME: The Pace Cougars under-14 side celebrate their Tyro League title win and, far right, Joe Cresdee and Rhys Mitchell-Lee show off the trophy.

THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR YOUTH SPORT

MPIONS PACE JUST NOT BE CAUGHT ...

left): Keegan Clark, Alex Rosling, Jake Smith, Rhys Mitchell-lum Read, Charlie Hennen, Jake Robinson & Billy Taylor. Front ott Perkis, Joe Cresdee, Jack Barnes, Archie Collier & Harry

top division of gue's under-14

after claiming a end, beating BTC

12 months after s under-13 league

and also reached the final of the Hampshire Cup.

The team, which is managed by Omar Cresdee and Keith Collier, trains Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings at Testwood College in Totton.

Has your youth team won a title or cup this season?
Email details and team pictures to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

HOW PACE WON THE SOUTHAMPTON TYRO LEAGUE TITLE

Sept 8 (H) QK Southampton . . .W 1-0
Billy Rolls (52 mins)

Oct 6 (H) Sportstars . . . . . .W 2-1
Joe Cresdee (33 mins) & Harry Prisk (68 mins)

Oct 27 (H) Eastleigh Youth . . . . .W 1-0
Jack Barnes (25 mins)

Nov 3 (A) Oaklands Rangers . . .W 1-0
Jake Smith (34 mins)

Nov 17 (A) Sportstars . . . . . .L 1-3
Harry Prisk (55 mins)

Dec 1 (A) QK Southampton . . . .W 2-1
Harry Prisk (33 mins) & Billy Taylor (69 mins) . . . . . .

Jan 19 (H) Warsash Wasps . . . .W 3-0
Harry Prisk (36 mins), Billy Rolls (65 mins) & Archie Collier (69 mins)

CELEBRATION TIME: Pace players hit the ground after securing the under-14 Tyro title.

Feb 2 (A) Eastleigh Youth . . . . . .L 0-1

Feb 9 (H) Oaklands Rangers . . .W 4-1
Harry Prisk (3 mins), Jake Robinson (25 mins & 33 mins) & Alex Rosling (58 mins)

Feb 16 (A) Warsash Wasps . . . .W 5-0
Jack Barnes (7 mins), Billy Rolls (9 mins, 17 mins & 21 mins) & Jake Robinson (45 mins) . . . . . .

March 9 (A) BTC Southampton .W 4-1
Elliott Perkis (2 mins), Jack Barnes (21 mins), Jake Smith (47 mins) & Billy Taylor (55 mins)

March 16 (H) BTC Southampton W 3-2
Elliott Perkis (3 mins), Jack Barnes (34 mins) & Billy Taylor (37 mins)

Hampshire Cup U14s

Sept 15 (A) Colden C RangW 3-2 (AET)
Charlie Hennen (45 mins) Joe Cresdee (56 mins) & Jake Smith (83 mins)

Oct 13 (H) Hedge End Rang BlueW 1-0
Jack Barnes (45 mins)

Nov 10 (H) Chineham Tigers . .W 6 - 1
Own Goal (21 mins), Jake Smith (27 mins), Joe Cresdee (30 mins & 37 mins), Jake Robinson (66 mins) & Harry Prisk (69 mins) . . . . . .

Dec 15 (H) Corfe Mullen . . . . . .L 0-3

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United

MY BIG SAINTS REGRET – BRETT

12-page pull-out special

LINING UP: Brett Poate and Cambridge's Ian Miller with the Trophy.

FLASH BACK: Brett Poate during his Saints days.

BRETT Poate admits playing at Wembley will help make up for his Saints regrets.

Simon Walter
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The Gosport Borough defender was told he would not make it at Saints after a disappointing third year at the academy.

Pompey fan Poate, 30, was a very promising left back in his teens but wishes he had given himself a better chance of making it as a pro.

The self-employed plasterer said: "I would love to have made it. Unfortunately, I just think I let myself down in my third year. I moved back to Portsmouth when I passed my driving test and was driving up every day and maybe going out a bit too much.

"We all lived in Hill Lane at The Lodge for my first couple of years and I could have moved to an apartment in Bedford Place for my final year, but ended up moving home.

"I shouldn't have done, I let myself down. I didn't take it as seriously as I should have done. I had a very good second year, which I began super-fit after training in America for two weeks.

"But I didn't do the same for the third year and wasn't as fit as I should have been.

"Looking back, there are regrets but it's my fault and it's easy to say now."

Poate was told he was being released by Steve Wigley and Huw Jennings, the former head coach and director of the academy.

"Wayne Bridge was there at the time playing 100-odd consecutive games and they told me they didn't think I was good enough to take over from him, which was fair enough."

Poate was one of the few Pompey lads in his age group, which included Brian Howard and Newcastle defender Mike Williamson.

"Stewart Henderson, one of our coaches, was from Pompey, he used to live in Paulsgrove, so called the Pompey lads Grovers! He made it easy to settle in.

"Southampton's where I learnt my trade."

Poate spent seven years at Havant & Waterlooville after leaving Saints and was reunited with Ian Baird for three seasons at Eastleigh before joining Gosport in 2012.

"When you come out of the bubble of full-time academy football and start playing men's football it's a bit of a wake-up call," smiles Poate.

"Going into a men's league after playing academy football on carpets took six months to get used to."

Poate has been to Wembley to support Pompey on three occasions but has never been close to playing there before.

"I've also seen Oasis there and got to the FA Trophy semi-finals with Havant – but that was when the new Wembley was still being built.

Continued on page 25

Money calls on Paisley's magic...

CAMBRIDGE United manager Richard Money will use his experience as a Liverpool player under Bob Paisley when he returns to Wembley, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

The former Scunthorpe, Walsall and Luton Town boss visited the home of football as a member of Liverpool's all-conquering squad in the early 80s.

Money bookended his playing career with two long spells at Scunthorpe, but in his mid-twenties he played 14 games during two seasons at Liverpool after moving from Fulham in 1980.

"I was on the bench for a Charity Shield and was Liverpool's 13th man for the 1981 League Cup final against West Ham, in the days of one substitute," recalls Money.

"We were fortunate enough to win the League Cup and the European Cup that year, both really good experiences."

Money was also an unused sub in the European Cup final win against Real Madrid in Paris, having played in the semi-final against Bayern Munich.

NEVER GET TIRED OF WINNING: Richard Money

"It's something I'm very proud of," he said. "I played there at a time when it was very much 'win the trophy then focus on what comes next', which is why we were so successful. The club never got tired of winning."

Money could also enjoy two trips to Wembley with Cambridge this year as his side are well placed in the Conference play-offs.

"I'll be as proud as anyone on Sunday, with my family including my grandchildren there," he said. "It's something to look back on with pride in years to come.

"You've only got to look at the teams Gosport have beaten along the way to know they deserve the utmost respect.

"But this is only a small step along the path leading to what we really want to achieve this year. We want to come back to Wembley and it's something we've still got to earn."

SKIPPER JAMIE'S GUIDE TO THE GOSPORT 'CRAZY GANG' – PAGES 20/21

Did You Know?

THE FA Trophy was first contested back in 1969/70. Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at the best local club performance in every season and who reached the final.

1969/70: Thorneycroft Athletic were the first Hampshire club to enjoy a good run in the FA Trophy.

The Basingstoke-based team reached the first round in the inaugural campaign.

That was despite losing 5-4 at home to Rugby in a first qualifying round replay!

Rugby were subsequently kicked out for fielding an ineligible player, and Thorneycroft – Hampshire League champions in 1968/69 – took advantage by then beating St Neots (away, after a replay) and Margate (away).

Drawn away at non league giants Weymouth – the Dorset club, having won the Southern League twice in previous years – Thorneycroft were trounced 5-0.

Thorneycroft were disbanded in the summer of 1972 after the loss of their ground.

Poole Town also reached the first round proper

They were beaten 4-0 at Kettering in a replay after a 1-1 draw.

Final: Macclesfield Town 2 Telford United 0

1970/71: Poole Town again reached the first round, losing 1-0 at Essex club Romford.

Final: Telford United 3 Hillingdon Borough 2

1971/72: Poole Town were thumped 4-0 at Bideford in a third qualifying round replay, while at the same stage Salisbury City lost a replay at Dorchester.

Dorchester took holders Telford to a replay in the last 16 before losing away.

Final: Stafford Rangers 3 Barnet 0

1972/73: Poole lost at the final qualifying round stage again, and for the second season running conceded four goals to Bideford. This time they were beaten 4-1 at home.

Wigan Athletic, regular visitors to Wembley in the last 12 months, made their first ever trip to the national stadium this season.

Final: Scarborough 2 Wigan Ath 1

1973/74: Cowes and Andover entered the tournament for the first time, though their involvement was brief as they both lost at home in the preliminary qualifying round.

Andover's conquerors, Guildford, then won at Salisbury in the first qualifying round.

Final: Morecambe 2 Dartford 1

1974/75: Poole progessed to the first round proper again before being caned 5-1 at home by Margate.

Final: Matlock Town 4 Scarborough 0

1975/76: Basingstoke Town reached the third qualifying round, but were then thumped 6-1 at home by Hendon.

Final: Scarborough 3 Stafford Rangers 2

1976/77: Waterlooville became the first Hampshire club to reach the second round of the Trophy.

They defeated Basingstoke and Hastings (replay) en route to losing 2-0 at home to Hendon.

Weymouth reached the quarter finals before losing at Altrincham in a replay.

Continued on facing page

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

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WEMBLEY SET T BRAND NEW 'CRAZY GANG'

GOSPORT Borough captain Jamie Brown has compared the team spirit at his latest club to Wimbledon FC's Crazy Gang.

The 32 year-old midfielder, a carpenter from Southampton, is in his second season at Privett Park after six years at Eastleigh.

He reckons Gosport can pull off a similar shock to the original Crazy Gang's win against Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup final.

Here he gives his guide to the players who will be taking on Cambridge United in Sunday's FA Trophy final.

Nathan Ashmore (goalkeeper)
'Cashew' has been superb for the last couple of years. Last season's Players' Player of the Year, he was training with Pompey for a while recently. He's a good lad who will do anything for a fiver!

Lee Molyneaux (defender)
Molly's a distributor for Nike so tells us what boots to get! Only the ref and the managers are allowed to wear black boots! I'm wearing stupid-coloured boots thanks to him. He goes round league clubs sorting them out. Apparently shin pads are his thing now...

Andy Forbes (defender)
Forbinho is the only player who can literally play anywhere...except centre midfield. He used to score so many goals but I love him at centre-back because he reads the game so well and can spring as well as anyone. He'll be our left-back at Wembley, his position throughout the Trophy run because Ian Richardson has been cup-tied. He started his career at Reading as a defender but scored a stupid amount of goals for Winchester City and Eastleigh.He's still got it up front, by the way.

Ryan Scott (midfielder)
Scotty wears Puma Kings and astroturf trainers with a tracksuit. The nicest guy in football, he's been brilliant for us. Joined us last year for the play-off finals.

Brett Poate (defender)
I was spewing when the FA invited him to the press day on the Thames, assuming he was the captain after skippering the second leg of the semi-final when I was suspended! All I've seen since is pictures of Poatey's ugly mug captioned 'captain'! That would only happen to Gosport! Poatey apologised but, seriously, I couldn't have wished for anyone better to do it, he's one of my best mates.

Sam Pearce (defender)
The worst dresser at the club and looks a lot older than he is. He looks my age but he's 26. Third-choice captain and great player to have at centre-back.

Danny Woodward (winger)
Babbsy (he looks like Phil Babb) is the gangster of the group; he loves his rap music. Only 19, he was brilliant last year but has found it tougher against bigger, fitter and stronger players in Skrill South. Has probably been shocked by how good the standard is, but is one for the future.

Danny Smith (midfielder)
Known as 'Dave' because that's how his name was announced on the tannoy earlier this season. He's been my anchor this season, if I do something wrong he tells me. He's been brilliant, consistently our best player.

Tim Sills (striker)
At 35, Sillsy's an old man and is in our worst-dressed top three thanks to his awful Puma boots. But he's been a great asset. I'm a fan of older players in a dogfight and he's been there and done it. His goals put us through to the final and he's been playing (when he wants) with a fractured ankle.

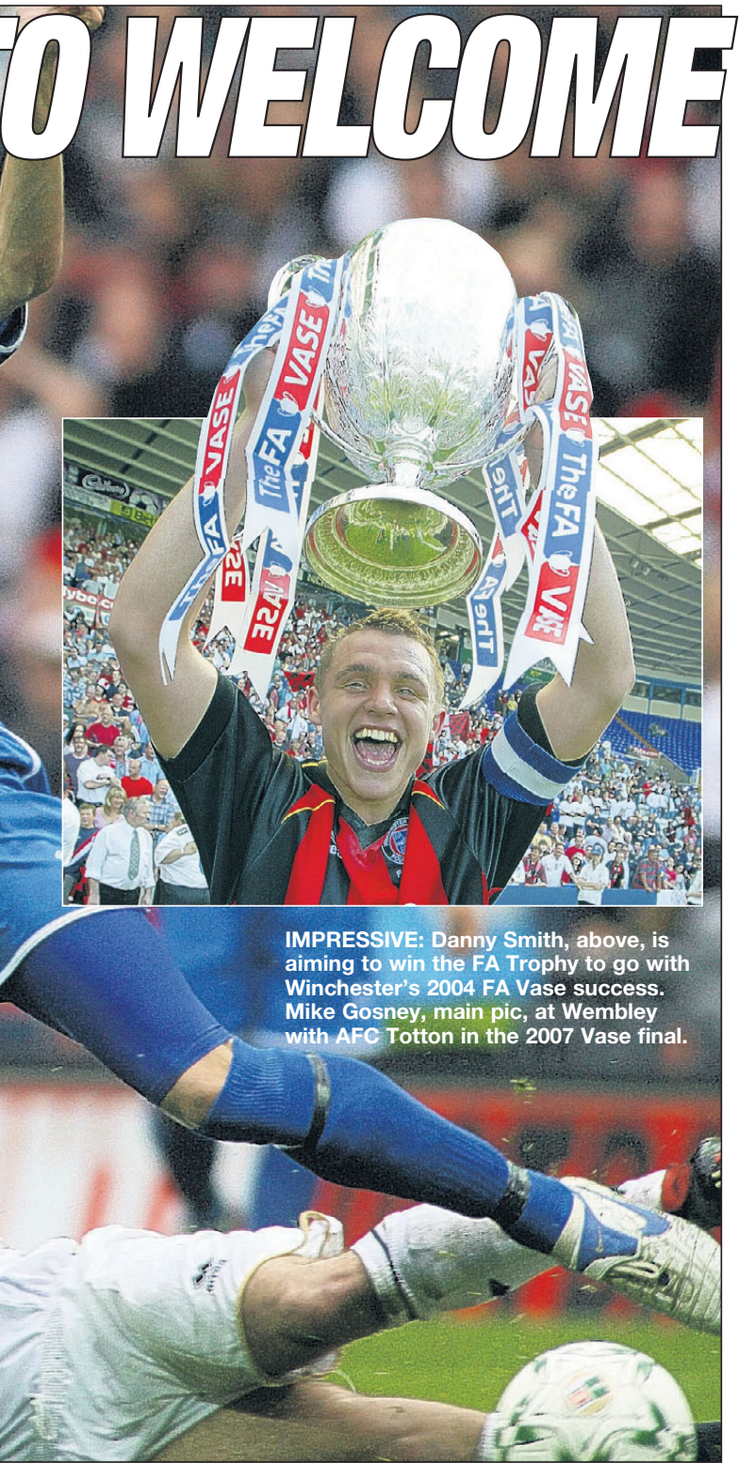
Mike Gosney (winger)
We call him Cheese because he gets so much money! When he can be bothered he's one of the best, you can't get near him. When he's not bothered he's on the bench. A great talent who's chilled about everything. If he wasn't so laid-back he'd be playing in the Football League. But you could probably say that about a few of our lads.

Adam Wilde (winger)
A few of the lads want a pre-match haircut so he'll be taking his scissors with him. His free-kick expertise will be useful, his delivery's exceptional.

GREAT ASSET: Tim Sills, above, is highly rated by Jamie Brown, left.

TODAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES – SEE PAGE 48

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...



IMPRESSIVE: Danny Smith, above, is aiming to win the FA Trophy to go with Winchester's 2004 FA Vase success. Mike Gosney, main pic, at Wembley with AFC Totton in the 2007 Vase final.

RUBBISH AT POKER: Ex-Saint Tom Dunford.

FORBINHO: Ex-Winchester ace Andy Forbes.

RECORD GOALSCORER: Justin Bennett.

MR ANGRY: Ex-Hamble man Rory Williams

It would be lovely to be on the end of one. He's one of my best mates, we went to the same school (Bellemoor) and had the same circle of friends but never played for the same club till I joined him at Gosport.

Rory Williams (forward)
The angriest man in the team. Every day he's angry, shooting off about something. Pikey referred to him as Ryan Williams in an interview so that's what we call him.

Dan Wooden (striker)
He and Rory (Ryan) were unbelievable for us last season, without those two we wouldn't have been promoted. But it's a partnership that hasn't been given a chance to get going this year. Known as 'Woodall' (players' names are always being mispronounced at our place). Technically very good, he's got great feet and can do tricks. Like Gosney, he doesn't mind a holiday during the season. He just b****rs off!

Jack Barton (defender)
Only 19 but really good for his age. Like a little bulldog with a great left ping on him. Some youngsters have a chip on their shoulder and think they have to start but he has a superb attitude.

Josh Carmichael (midfield)
On loan from AFC Bournemouth. Plays wide left for us so I can play in the middle! Big lad but agile with good feet. Doesn't get pushed off the ball and there's fight in his eyes – he doesn't mind a 50-50. On-loan players are sometimes out of their depth but not Josh.

Gareth Barfoot (goalkeeper)
Barts has had a tough year as second-choice keeper. Nice lad and a local boy who played with me and Smudge (Danny Smith) at Eastleigh. He does Nath' the world of good, they have their silly goalkeepers union going on which no-one cares about but them!

Justin Bennett (striker)
Broke the club's all-time goalscoring record when he scored two in our win against Boreham Wood last week, taking his tally to 193.
Four of those have come in two games since being recalled from a loan at Poole Town. I'm sure he's benefited from playing under Tommy Killick, who would have given him a few wise words and a bit of confidence. The fans love him.

Sammy Igoe (winger)
Loves a fag before a game and is still playing at 38, so who says smoking's bad for you! The Lizard calms us down, he has a great delivery on him. We miss him when he's not available. Despite his age, he's as childish as everyone else. Used to play for Pompey, Reading and Swindon.

Tom Dunford (midfielder)
I'd love to have his style. It was a massive blow to us when he did his knee ligaments and he's just coming back from that now. A former Saints academy lad, he'll be in contention on Sunday but realistically he won't start. Isle of Wight lad who loves throwing money away – he's rubbish at poker.

Alex Pike (manager)
Pikey has his bad jokes and his double negatives, but we try and humour him and just say "yes, gaffer".
Seriously, it's a pleasure to play under him. Last year was the best of my career , largely down to him.
We were second from bottom before a 23-match unbeaten got us into the play-offs. It was phenomenal, an emotional rollercoaster and fair play to Pikey, he kept believing in us.
We've come a long way. In some ways we're still a Wessex League club but we're doing our best.

Mick Catlin (assistant)
Cats is like an extended player and probably too friendly with us.
He loves a beer with us but his tactics are brilliant and he gets his point across – you couldn't ask for anymore. When he's unhappy it hurts. He doesn't have to shout whereas Pikey loves a shout.
They're a perfect partnership.

Last but not least...
Jamie Brown (midfielder)

Football's been my whole life; my brother Wayne is Oxford United's goalkeeping coach and my dad also played as a goalkeeper and managed Bashley reserves.
I became a self-employed carpenter-so I could fit work around my football.
But this will only be my second trip to Wembley and my first since going on a school trip to an England game when it still had the Twin Towers.
I was at Pompey as a schoolboy but was never good enough for a YTS.
I don't support any club but being a Southampton lad I'm always a red (and not a blue) in training!
This will be the biggest day of my career, at our level you just don't expect to play at Wembley.
So I'm going to savour it and take as many photos as I can.
We'll be watching Saracens v Harlequins there on Saturday, by which time we'll know the team.
I'm sure there will be a few shocks but Wembley will have its first murder if I'm not in the starting line-up!

Did You Know?

Final: Scarborough 2 Dagenham 1

1977/78: Waterlooville beat Bridport and Met Police before losing to Dartford in the final qualifying round.
Salisbury went out in the second qualifying round, losing 1-0 at home to Cheltenham Town.
Final: Altrincham 3 Leatherhead 1

1978/79: There was a marathon first qualifying round tussle between Waterlooville and Woking.
After 2-2, 3-3 and 0-0 draws, Woking eventually won 1-0.
Salisbury again went out in the second qualifying round, beaten 2-0 at home by Taunton.
Final: Stafford Rangers 2 Kettering Town 0

1979/80: Oxford City beat Salisbury 1-0 in the second qualifying round.
Final: Dagenham 2 Mossley 1

1980/81: Salisbury and Basingstoke both went out in the third qualifying round, at Bridgend Town and Hastings United respectively.
Hastings then dumped out non league giants Yeovil Town.
Final: Bishop's Stortford 1 Sutton United 0

1981/82: Gosport Borough were the best Hampshire club this season for the first time, reaching the third qualifying round before losing 3-2 at Croydon.
Final: Enfield 1 Altrincham 0

1982/83: Waterlooville, having won 5-2 at Leatherhead, lost 2-1 at home to Carshalton in the first round proper.
Final: Telford United 2 Northwich Victoria 1

1983/84: Salisbury were beaten in a third qualifying round replay at Gloucester City.
Final: Northwich Victoria 1 Bangor City 1
Replay (at Stoke City): Northwich Victoria 2 Bangor City 1

1984/85: Salisbury again reached the third qualifying round before being trashed 7-1 at Frome Town.
Final: Wealdstone 2 Boston United 1

1985/86: Salisbury reached the first round proper before a 1-0 reverse at Worthing.
Final: Altrincham 1 Runcorn 0

1986/87: Fareham produced a sensational performance to become the first Hampshire club to reach the semi finals of the Trophy.
Their odyssey began in the first qualifying round with a 5-0 win against Epsom & Ewell.
They then beat Walton & Hersham, Farnborough, Saltash, Bromsgrove, Scarborough and Barnet en route to a semi-final meeting with Kidderminster.
At the end of the season, Neil Warnock's Scarborough became the first club ever promoted automatically to the Football League as Conference champions.
Barnet, then managed by the colourful Barry Fry, were runners-up.
After drawing the first leg 0-0 in Worcestershire, the second leg was switched to Saints' The Dell headquarters. Kidderminster ended the Southern Leaguers' dream by winning 2-0.
Final: Kidderminster Harriers 0 Burton Albion 0
Replay (WBA): Kidderminster Harriers 2 Burton Albion 1

Continued on page 22

DAILY ECHO - BEST FOR FOOTBALL THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

Did You Know

FA Trophy history – From page 21

1987/88: Due to their previous season's heroics, Fareham were given a bye through to the first round proper, where they lost 2-0 at home to Hendon.
Final: Enfield 0 Telford United 0
Replay (WBA): Enfield 3 Telford United 2

1988/89: Fareham only lost 2-1 at home to Yeovil Town in the first round, while Basingstoke were beaten 5-3 at Kettering in a first round replay.
Final: Telford United 1 Macclesfield Town 0

1989/90: Fareham were beaten 5-1 at Woking in the third qualifying round.
Final: Barrow 3 Leek Town 0

1990/91: Salisbury reached the first round proper but were caned 4-1 at home by VS Rugby.
Final: Wycombe Wanderers 2 Kidderminster Harriers 1

1991/92: Farnborough Town reached the third round proper for the first time before losing 3-2 at Redbridge Forest, who later became part of Dagenham & Redbridge FC.
Final: Colchester 3 Witton Albion 1

1992/93: Farnborough Town went one stage further by reaching the quarter finals, where they lost 3-2 at Witton.
Final: Wycombe 4 Runcorn 1

1993/94: Waterlooville reached the first round, where they lost 2-1 in a replay at Bromsgrove Rovers.
Guiseley, who had lost the FA Vase final to Wimborne only two years earlier, reached the semi-finals.
Final: Woking 2 Runcorn 1

1994/95: Farnborough reached the second round proper before losing 1-0 at home to Rushden & Diamonds.
Final: Woking 2 Kidderminster 1

1995/96: Bashley played at Wembley this season – losing 2-0 at Wembley in the second qualifying round!
Final: Northwich Victoria 1 Macclesfield Town 3

1996/97: Salisbury lost in a second round replay 3-2 at Dorchester.
The Dorset club then went out in the last 16, losing 3-2 at home to eventual winners Woking.
Final: Dagenham & Redbridge 0 Woking 1

1997/98: Bashley reached the last 16 for the first time, losing 2-0 at Hayes.
Final: Cheltenham Tn 2 Southport 0

1998/99: Havant & Waterlooville reached the third round proper for the first time before losing 1-0 at home to Worcester City.
Final: Kingstonian 1 Forest Green 0

1999/2000
Final: Kingstonian 3 Kettering 2

2000/01: There were contrasting second round exits for both Bashley and Havant & Waterlooville. The latter lost 1-0 at home to Worcester City while Bash were caned 7-1 at home by St Albans.
Final: Canvey Island 1 Forest Gr 0.

2001/02: Bashley progressed all the way to the fourth round before losing 1-0 at Stevenage Borough.
Continued on facing page

Simon Walter
simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

HE has represented England's non-league team and played in the Football League, but an FA Trophy final appearance at Wembley will be the undoubted highlight of Adam Wilde's career.

The 34 year-old barber from Southampton never dreamt he would play at the home of football after his Football League career was cut short by Cambridge United – the odds-on favourites to win tomorrow.

"I'll have ticked off everything I wanted to achieve come Sunday; I've played league football, for my country and now Wembley," says Gosport's left-winger, who was given his chance by Cambridge in the mid-Nineties after being told he was too small to make it at Saints, aged 14.

"Saints quite like technical players now so size doesn't really matter at that age, but in those days if you couldn't grow a moustache at 14 you didn't really have a chance," continues Wilde, who was at his hometown club with the likes of Wade Elliott and former Saints first-teamers Phil Warner and Kevin Gibbens before being released by Stewart Henderson, the youth coach at the time.

Cambridge United broke Wilde's heart four years later, after he had made four appearances in what is now League Two, having been spotted by scouts when he was still at Bellemoor School.

"As soon as I left school I was offered a two-year YTS (Youth Training Scheme) by Cambridge," he recalls, before pausing as he prepares to give my thatch a short back and sides at *Duo*, his unisex salon in East St, Southampton

"I made my debut at 17 against Cardiff City under Tommy Taylor. He rated me and said I'd stay a part of his plans and that he'd keep me involved.

"I was starting to be a regular in the squad when he got sacked and Roy McFarland took over. He had a different opinion and got rid of me."

Wilde made one start and three appearances as a substitute during his teens at the Abbey Stadium before McFarland released him in 1999, following the club's promotion to what is now League One.

"He preferred grafters who were better defensively and I wasn't that type of player," explains Wilde, who continued his football education in the university city.

"I went to the neighbouring club, Cambridge City took my contract over and I had a good time there."

Wilde played in an FA Cup first-round tie against a third-tier Wigan Athletic side including Roberto Martinez in the first of his three seasons with the Southern Leaguers.

Then he embarked on a journeyman career.

He was sold to Worcester City, where he was playing in the Southern Premier when he earned his England C call-up 11 years ago.

"We played in Belgium against the national Under-21 side, a really good experience," he continues.

"Funnily enough, [my Gosport teammate] Tim Sills was in the squad and the lad who scored both their goals played in the Champions League the week before – when I was playing at Tamworth!

"I played some of my best football at Worcester, but it involved too much travelling so they sold me to

I've been trying not to think about it too much but on Monday I randomly woke up with butterflies

TRIM AS IT GETS: The Sports Pink's Simon Walter goes under the Wilde scissors. Left – Wilde in action for Salisbury in 2006.

LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS AT dailyecho.co.uk

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

THE VETERAN WILDE HAS HIS BEST DAY AHEAD

A CUT ABOVE: Adam Wilde outside his hairdressing salon in Southampton city centre.

Weymouth, who were going full-time.

"There was a lot of money being thrown around and they were looking to really go for it so I moved back down here. It was nice to come home after ten years away."

A lack of first-team opportunities saw Wilde move on two years later to Salisbury City, the first of his six clubs in the next three years (stints at St Albans City, Eastbourne Borough, Sutton United, Farnborough and AFC Totton soon followed).

Only when he signed for Gosport in 2009, before establishing *Duo* a year later, did his career find some stability.

"Playing for a club 20 minutes down the road helps and I'm fortunate that I can take days off here and there and leave at lunchtime for evening games," says Wilde, who is approaching 200 appearances for his 11th club.

"Die-hard Pompey supporters watch us so I was a bit nervous going down there at first and I'm still not sure I'm accepted by some!

"We didn't do particularly well in my first season, it didn't seem to be going anywhere.

"Then the whole team just clicked and, after a couple of promotions on the bounce, here we are.

"It's a great team spirit. It's probably one of the few clubs I've played for where all the players are mates.

"I think that's what's got us through a lot of the games."

As he prepares to come up against the club where it all began, Wilde acknowledges that his career has come full circle.

"I couldn't wish for better opponents than Cambridge United," he says. "To be playing them at Wembley is a bit weird, it seems like fate.

"I don't really know anyone there apart from Jez George, a stalwart of the club who's now Director of Football.

"But a lot of friends are going to the game who are Cambridge fans, including my old landlord, who's been wishing me the best but not too much.

"It's a cliché, but this is a dream. My only previous Wembley experience was with a group of mates to watch Wade [Elliott] play for Burnley in a Championship play-off final five years ago.

"But we nearly missed his goal [a 13th-minute wonder strike that settled the contest with Sheffield United]

"We had a few beers in London, got there ten minutes after kick off and the second we sat down he scored!

"To see a mate score like that was special."

Wilde lives in Portswood with his wife, Jen, but is originally from Lordswood and will be watched by several family members, including brother Paul, a keen cricketer at Paultons CC, where Adam is an occasional player.

"I've had a lot of ticket requests, it's a nightmare," he says. "I don't know how Premier League players do it!"

Gosport's players have acclimatised to the Wembley surroundings since arriving in London on Thursday.

This afternoon they were expected to be there for Saracens v Harlequins as part of a world-record crowd for a rugby union club game.

"I've been trying not to think about it too much but on Monday morning I randomly woke up with butterflies," laughs Wilde.

"You don't realise how big it is till you experience it and people start coming in wanting interviews.

"It's going to be ridiculous. Cats (assistant manager Mick Catlin) went to Wembley recently and said you can't imagine how big it is.

"But no-one expects us to win so we'll play with freedom.

"I don't think Cambridge are too fussed about us either.

"I can see them being a bit complacent and we'll go in with confidence after picking up some good results recently."

A Saints fan since first going to the The Dell as an eight year-old, Wilde intends to buy a season ticket when he eventually calls time on his playing career.

But at 34 he still has his best day ahead of him.

Whatever happens, the medal he takes from Wembley will trump the League Two runners-up medal he still has from his disappointing final season at Cambridge United.

WEMBLEY MATCH REACTION IN MONDAY'S *DAILY ECHO*

Did You Know

From facing page

Farnborough went out at the same stage, losing 3-2 in a replay at Burton Albion.
Final: Stevenage Borough 0 Yeovil 2

2002/03: Havant & Waterlooville caused a sensation when they reached the semi-finals for the first time.
They won away at Billericay, Colwyn Bay and Sutton United en route to losing 2-1 on aggregate to Tamworth.
Burscough, a town with a population of under 8,000, became the lowest ranked winners of the Trophy.
Final: Burscough 2 Tamworth 1

2003/04: Aldershot reached the semi-finals of the Trophy for the first time before losing to eventual winners Hednesford.
Weymouth bizarrely won 8-5 at Lewes in the second round proper before bowing out.
Final: Canvey Island 2 Hednesford Town 3

2004/05: Havant & Waterlooville reached the fourth round proper before crashing 5-0 at eventual winners Grays Athletic, who were playing in the Conference South that season.
Final: Grays Athletic 1 Hucknall 1 (Grays won 6-5 on penalties)

2005/06: Salisbury City reached the quarter-finals for the first time.
There they were beaten 3-1 at higher division Exeter City, and lost ex-Saints defender Andy Cook with a broken leg midway through the tie.
Final: Grays Athletic 2 Woking 0

2006/07: Salisbury reached the last eight for the second season running, before a 3-0 loss at eventual winners Stevenage Borough.
Final: Kidderminster 2 Stevenage B 3

2007/08: Aldershot failed to become the first Hampshire club to reach the Trophy final when they fell at the semi-final stage for the second time.
On this occasion the Shots, the Conference champions that season, were beaten by Ebbsfleet.
Final: Torquay United 0 Ebbsfleet United 1

2008/09: Havant & Waterlooville enjoyed another long cup run.
The season after they reached the fourth round of the FA Cup, losing gallantly at Liverpool, they progressed to the quarter-finals of the Trophy before a 2-0 loss at York City.
Final: Stevenage 1 York City 0

2009/10: It was Salisbury's turn to suffer semi-final heartache as they fell at the final hurdle with Wembley on the horizon. They were beaten 1-0 at home by Barrow in the first leg of their semi before losing 2-1 away.
Final: Barrow 2 Stevenage Borough 1

2010/11: Eastleigh reached the last 16 for the first time, only to suffer a shock 3-1 home loss to Chasetown.
Salisbury reached the quarter-finals again, losing 2-1 at eventual winners Darlington.
Final: Darlington 1 Mansfield 0

2011/12: Salisbury City reached the second round before crashing 6-2 at home to York City.
Final: Newport County 0 York City 2

2012/13: Havant & Waterlooville progressed to the second round, before losing 4-0 at Grimsby Town.
Final: Wrexham 1 Grimsby 1 (Wrexham won 4-1 on penalties)

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ... FA Trophy final:

We're opposites - why it work

AWESOME FOURSOME: Gosport quartet, from left, striker Tim Sills, manager Alex Pike, defender Brett Poate and assistant boss Mick Catlin.

THEY have worked together at Gosport Borough for the last five years, in which time the club has won two promotions as well as becoming the lowest-ranked club to reach the FA Trophy final for 11 years.

Manager Alex Pike, who was born and bred in Gosport, and his assistant Mick Catlin have worked wonders in taking Gosport from the Wessex League to Conference South and a cup final against Conference high-fliers Cambridge United, a club that was challenging for promotion to the Premier League not so long ago, in the last three years.

A former Gosport midfielder who happened to be born in Wembley, Catlin will be leading the team out at the home of football, at Pike's request.

Sports Pink reporter Simon Walter met the duo in London recently, during a Thames cruise organised by the Football Association to publicise the final.

SW: ***Cruising along the Thames looking forward to an FA Trophy final, life must seem quite surreal?***

MC: I don't think it'd sunk in at all, it comes in waves. We've had so many other games since then to concentrate on. It's only when you have time to think about it that it sinks in that we're going to be at Wembley.

AP: It's a realisation when you do gigs like this. It's fantastic for the club, it raises the profile, everyone's in the spotlight and it's a tremendous accolade.

At the moment people just think we're happy to be there but we're not just making up the numbers, that's for sure.

SW: ***Has it been difficult to keep your players focused on league fixtures?***

AP: Certainly not, we've been concentrating on picking up points for survival.

MC: For the players it's a motivating thing because they don't know who we're going to select for the game. They're still playing for shirts for the starting XI so it hasn't been difficult to motivate anyone.

SW: ***Alex, how does the build up compare to your FA Vase final as manager of Wimborne against Guiseley in 1992?***

AP: This is far better. It's more professional. No disrespect to the Vase but this is for the top echelon of non-league football and you're made to feel that way with days like this.

It was a lot more circumspect with the Vase final. But then again that was 20-odd years ago and I'm getting old, I can't remember!

SW: ***What's the secret to your success as a partnership?***

MC: We're opposites. Al's good at things I'm not good at and vice versa. We complement each other.

I tend to look after the players and the coaching side of it. Every year the amount of media we've had to do has doubled and that's time consuming.

It's very difficult to concentrate on everything, but Al looks after that.

It works well because we have that rapport where he trusts me and I trust him.

AP: Amazingly it's almost telepathy now. We've always had the same routine, when we pick a team for any given game there's never more than one or two differences. We usually have the same side.

I've had a few assistant managers in my 30 years as a manager and I've learnt more off Mick than any other.

Someone has to cause the upsets and the cuts and someone has to go round putting the sticky plaster on and that's what Mick does. He's very good at it.

SW: ***A good cop/bad cop partnership?***

AP: To a certain degree it has to be. You can't both have the same style.

MC: But I'm not always the good cop!

SW: ***Alex, you've been described as non-league's answer to Brian Clough, is Mick your Peter Taylor?***

AP: A lot of people have said that and it's true that Cloughie's a big idol of mine. I loved the way he managed and made provincial clubs successful and we're very much the same. Losing Mick would be like losing my right arm.

SW: ***Mick was assistant to your predecessor, John Robson, but went on to manage Andover. So how did you come to work together in the first place?***

AP: Gosport had a policy of sacking the backroom staff when they sacked the manager so when John Robson was sacked I never had the chance to speak with Mick, he'd gone.

A couple of years later I heard that Mick was getting fed up at Andover because of the trouble they were in. So we had a telephone call, met up and the rest is history.

SW: ***How much more special is taking Gosport to Wembley when it's your hometown club?***

AP: I was born in Gosport and lived there till I was 18 when I joined the Dorset Police Service, which took me away. I then came out of the Police service to run a football kit company.

John Simpson, the chairman at the time, wanted some kit, so my business partner took some down there.

He was moaning about the results they were having at the time so my business partner told him I was a Gosport lad and that's how it came about.

He rang and asked if I'd be interested, I said I wouldn't and he was put back.

I said if you didn't have a manager I'd be interest on the Satu

MC: I reme

AP: [laugh know footb occupation. three years give them th cess the cha ing a teleph else.

BRIAN CLO

: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

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one call to someone

UGH

SW: *Growing up in Gosport, were you a regular at Privett Park?*

AP: I first visited Privett Park in 1967 with my dad, he took me there for my first game as a six year-old. I was never a Pompey fan, I've always supported Man United but always went to see my local club.

SW: *How do you rate your chances in the final?*

MC: We like being underdogs, history shows that that's when we perform at our best.

AP: Absolutely, the pressure's not on us. We literally cannot lose because we're going to play at the home of football.

We can play without fear, express ourselves, be brave on the ball and that's what we'll do.

Cambridge will have to have a good day if they want to take the trophy away from us.

We were massive underdogs in 1992, Guiseley had won it the year before but only after a replay at Bramall Lane so were going all out to win it at Wembley.

Football's got a fantastic way of turning up these results - if it was predictable noone would go and watch.

SW: *You wouldn't be the first Wembley giantkillers; Wimbledon v Liverpool ...*

AP: Wigan v Man City

MC: [laughing]: Southampton v Man United

AP: Don't remind me of that one! I was there in 1976. Bobby Stokes, I'll never forgive him! Offside he was!

I'll be going to Wembley at least twice this year as I'll be supporting Sholing there as well.

SW: *They've got to get there first.*

AP: They will. Dave Diaper sent me a text congratulating us on getting to Wembley, saying they'll have to follow us there. "It will be good for Hampshire," he said. I said "b****r Hampshire, it's about you and me!"

SW: *It would be some double for Hampshire if you both get there. You must have been delighted to win the toss for the home dressing room and choice of kit at Wembley?*

MC: It was an amazing day, a massive eye-opener walking round seeing the facilities.

It's got to be one of the best football stadiums in the world.

When you walk out on that pitch it makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.

When the place is full of Gosport and Cambridge supporters, it will be even more amazing.

I hope the players respond and perform on the day, that's the main thing.

Sometimes the occasion can get the better of players, hopefully it won't with ours.

We've got lots of big characters in the dressing room, all the young lads will look forward to it and we'll certainly get pumped up.

AP: There's no resemblance with the new Wembley and the old Wembley as it was in 1992.

We've got a manager's office that's bigger than Gosport's changing room with sofas in it and plasma TVs and our own shower.

Then you've got this massive great hydrotherapy pool, an ice bath, individual cubicles and a warm-up room downstairs.

But this is for the people of Gosport, It's not a rich town but it's created a massive buzz. People are getting so behind us.

A group has just cut an official song for us, one pub alone is sending 250 people and other pubs are sending two or three coaches.

It's embracing the whole town and giving it a right fillip.

SW: *Mick, being a former Gosport player must make it even more special for you,.*

MC: Yes and I was born in Wembley, we moved to Hampshire when I was two so it's only taken me 49 years to get back! My dad's 83 but will be there along with my brother-in-law, Paul Williams who's flown over from New Zealand especially! He's also the uncle of Rory Williams, one of our forwards, and comes from Gosport.

I played for the club in the early Nineties when the club struggled, we were in the Southern Premier and running out of money fast.

I was a midfielder and signed from Fareham for £250.

We had three difficult years where it was difficult to keep going but it was always a very friendly club and a lot of the people there now were there back in the day.

Every time I went back there with another club I was always made welcome. This is for them and the people who put so much effort in behind the scenes.

It's a very proud moment.

John Robson was a big influence on me and in the five years I've been here with Alex we've had three promotions, so it's obviously all down to me!

Continued on page 28

Routes to the FA Trophy final

Cambridge United

2R Salisbury (a) 1-0 (Arnold)

3R St Albans (a) 2-1 (Arnold, Pierre)

4R Luton (h) 2-2 (Elliott, Chambers)

4RR Luton (a) 1-0 (Chambers)

QF Eastleigh (a) 1-0 (Berry)

SF1 Grimsby Town (h) 2-1 (Bird 2)

SF2 Grimsby Town (a) 1-1 (Bird)

WINNER: Mike Gosney netted the only goal against Concord in the Trophy.

Gosport Borough

1R Dorchester (h) 3-0 (Dunford 2, Bennett)

2R Concord R (h) 1-0 (Gosney)

3R Nuneaton (h) 0-0

3RR Nuneaton (a) 0-0 (4-3 on penalties – Gosney, Poate, Bennett, Igoe)

4R Hungerford (a) 1-0 (Brown)

QF North Ferriby Utd (a) 2-1 (Igoe, Sills)

SF1 Havant & Waterlooville (a) 1-1 (Sills)

SF2 Havant & Waterlooville (h) 2-0 (Sills 2)

Regrets

From page 19

"Playing at Wembley is the pinnacle, I've had to sort more than 50 tickets for friends and family! Let's be honest, a team like Gosport getting to Wembley is ridiculous. Since I've been with the club we've had two promotions and now this.

"We're making the most of it."

Poate was sent off in the semi-final second leg against former club Havant, but he knew it would not suspend him from the final. Unlike the sending off that denied him the chance to play in an FA Cup third-round tie for Havant against Liverpool at Anfield seven years ago.

"I was suspended for that game, the only one I didn't play in from that Cup run," he sighs. "I was sent off in a draw at Swansea in the previous round and set up three goals when we beat them 4-2 in the replay, knowing I wouldn't be able to play at Anfield.

"It was another ridiculous day; I was sat on the bench just along from Gerrard, Torres, Kuyt and Carragher with a tear in my eye as the fans sang *You'll Never Walk Alone*

"This makes up for it."

AGUE FOOTBALL NEWS 12 MONTHS A YEAR

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

● **FLASHBACK to the early 1980s when Gosport Borough were one of the top clubs in the Southern Division of the Southern League.**

Southern League Southern Division 1981/82

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wealdstone	46	32	8	6	100	32	72
Hastings United	46	31	9	6	79	34	71
Dorchester Town	46	21	18	7	76	4	60
Gosport Borough	46	26	8	12	76	45	60
Fareham Town	46	20	14	12	58	48	54
Poole Town	46	19	15	12	92	63	53
Waterlooville	46	22	9	15	75	53	53
Welling United	46	19	13	14	70	48	51
Addlestone & W	46	17	17	12	71	53	51
Chelmsford City	46	20	11	15	64	53	51
Aylesbury United	46	9	12	15	79	61	50
Basingstoke Town	46	18	12	16	74	61	48
Dover	46	19	8	19	61	63	46
Ashford Town (Kent)	46	16	14	16	52	56	46
Tonbridge	46	19	7	20	62	70	45
Dunstable	46	18	8	20	63	68	44
Salisbury	46	16	10	20	64	81	42
Hounslow	46	15	11	20	59	83	41
Hillingdon Borough	46	14	10	22	46	58	38
Canterbury City	46	0	16	20	49	78	36
Crawley Town	46	9	12	25	46	81	30
Folkestone	46	10	6	30	49	101	26
Andover	46	4	11	31	39	100	19
Thanet United	46	5	7	34	37	110	17

● **GOSPORT finish runners-up after a fantastic late season run.**

Southern League Southern Division 1984/85

	P	W	D	L	G	G	Pts
Basingstoke Town	38	24	9	5	61	22	81
Gosport Borough	38	22	6	10	78	41	72
Poole Town	38	20	12	6	69	38	72
Hillingdon	38	19	10	9	51	23	67
Thanet United	38	19	9	10	63	47	66
Salisbury	38	19	5	14	55	54	62
Sheppey United	38	18	6	14	49	45	60
Addlestone & W	38	16	9	13	68	54	57
Waterlooville	38	15	10	13	71	63	55
Canterbury City	38	15	7	16	61	64	52
Woodford Town	38	13	13	12	46	53	52
Tonbridge	38	16	3	19	59	62	51
Andover	38	15	5	18	42	54	50
Dorchester Town	38	13	7	18	45	60	46
Cambridge City	38	11	11	16	59	71	44
Chatham Town	38	12	8	18	44	66	44
Ashford Town (Kent)	38	10	9	19	54	69	39
Dunstable	38	8	10	20	35	56	34
Dover Athletic	38	7	7	24	39	78	28
Erith & Belvedere	38	6	8	24	36	65	26

● **Gosport Borough win the Wessex League title from AFC Totton by the narrowest margin possible.**

Wessex League Premier Division 2006/07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gosport Borough	38	27	8	3	87	27	89
A F C Totton	38	27	8	3	89	31	89
V T F C	38	24	8	6	76	44	80
Poole Town	38	23	4	11	88	41	73
Bournemouth	38	20	10	8	69	38	70
Wimborne Town	38	19	10	9	82	54	67
Moneyfields	38	21	3	14	69	46	66
*Fareham Town	38	18	12	8	95	57	65
Cowes Sports	38	17	9	12	61	50	60
Brading Town	38	15	7	16	74	80	52
Bemerton	38	13	9	16	55	73	48
Lymington Town	38	13	8	17	49	48	47
Brockenhurst	38	10	11	17	52	66	41
Christchurch	38	9	10	19	47	63	37
Hamworthy United	38	9	10	19	49	70	37
Horndean	38	11	1	26	51	104	34
*Alton Town	38	9	7	22	59	87	33
Downton	38	7	10	21	48	89	31
Ringwood Town	38	5	8	25	34	85	23
Hamble A S S C	38	5	3	30	24	105	18

● **Gosport win the Southern League Division 1 S & W play-offs after finishing third.**

Southern League Division 1 S & W 2011/12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bideford	40	28	8	4	77	41	92
Poole Town	40	25	6	9	78	39	81
Gosport Borough	40	22	14	4	73	44	80
Sholing	40	22	8	10	71	43	74
Hungerford Town	40	21	8	11	65	44	71
North Leigh	40	21	5	14	90	63	68
Paulton Rovers	40	18	10	12	60	39	64
Thatcham Town	40	16	14	10	51	42	62
Tiverton Town	40	16	11	13	52	42	59
Cinderford Town	40	17	8	15	49	39	59
Bishops Cleeve	40	16	11	13	40	42	59
Halesowen Town	40	15	6	19	55	56	51
Yate Town	40	13	11	16	58	59	50
Mangotsfield United	40	14	7	19	62	66	49
Bridgwater Town	40	13	4	23	47	77	43
Didcot Town	40	11	9	20	39	68	42
Taunton Town	40	10	10	20	47	76	40
Abingdon United	40	9	10	21	35	69	37
Wimborne Town	40	8	11	21	50	77	35
Clevedon Town	40	9	6	25	51	75	33
Stourport Swifts	40	5	5	30	39	88	20

Continued on facing page

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SPORTS EDITOR

BOROUGH FACE

THEIR story started just a fortnight after the D-Day landings in 1944.

Seventy years on, the club formed to bring organised sport back to the town of Gosport is ready to write the most remarkable chapter in their history.

Gosport Borough Athletic Club was founded just two weeks after the D-Day landings with the aim of bringing football, athletics, swimming and cycling back after a break of several years.

For most of the subsequent seven decades, Borough played at a respectable level – winning the Hampshire League title and being a Southern League force.

But Alex Pike's arrival as manager in December 2005 has proved the catalyst for an amazing transformation.

Three promotions in the last seven seasons catapulted the club from the Sydenhams Wessex League into the Conference South – just two divisions below neighbours Portsmouth.

If that story was not amazing enough, Pike and assistant Mick Catlin have overseen a phenomenal run to Wembley in the FA Trophy final.

The club had never previously reached the last 16 of non league football's premier cup competition.

But Gosport stunned high flying Conference Premier outfit Nuneaton – winning a penalty shoot-out away after two goalless draws – before winning at Conference North table-toppers North Ferriby United.

Drawn against fellow south Hampshire club Havant & Waterlooville in the semi-final, Borough drew the first leg against their Conference South rivals before winning 2-0 at Privett Park.

Gosport had tasted success in their very first season, 1944/45.

They finished runners-up in the Portsmouth and District League Division One under the guidance of former Saints player Stan Cribb.

The club were duly accepted into the Hampshire League and won the Division One title at their first attempt.

They had to wait 31 years before they lifted the title again.

After winning the Hampshire League title in successive seasons, 1976/77 and 1977/78, Gosport were elected to the Southern League's second tier – one level below the likes of Yeovil Town and Wimbledon.

In Gosport's first four seasons they never finished outside the top four and, when the League was restructured for the start on the 1982/83 season, Borough were placed in the Premier Division.

Two years later Boro' lost their top-flight status and were relegated.

However the next season, 1985/86, saw the team bounce straight back after an incredible run of 16 wins in the final 19 matches earned them the runners-up spot and promotion.

Gosport still needed to win their final match to be certain of going up and, in front of a home crowd in excess of 1,500, they demolished Salisbury 5-0.

In 1987/88 Gosport were once again threatened with relegation.

Until the April, they had looked odds-on favourites for the drop but a run in the Hampshire Senior Cup that took them all the way to the Final at The Dell lifted the players' spirits.

A 3-0 thrashing of favourites Farnborough Town in the final was followed by a good run of results in the league, preserving their Premier Division status.

Gosport enjoyed their highest ever finish in 1988/89, claiming seventh place in the Premier Division.

A mass exodus of players and a change in the management saw them relegated to the Southern

PLAY-OFF JOY: Steve Claridge, left, and Justin Bennett at Poole in 2012

DAILY ECHO AND PINK – TOPS FOR NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

ANOTHER D-DAY

TITLE SUCCESS: Gosport win the Wessex in 2007

FEET UP: Gosport's Andy Forbes, below left, in action at Eastleigh.

Division and, two years later (1992) to the Wessex League.

Following relegation, the chairman at the time, Ian Hay, appointed Roger Sherwood manager.

Although Borough had three good seasons under the future Eastleigh chairman, the Wessex League Cup in 1992/93 was his only major success.

After the departure of Sherwood at the start of 1995/96, the management committee undertook a review of the club's policies.

It was decided to commence a period of financial consolidation and restructuring was required.

The club's position in the Wessex League continued to deteriorate until former reserve team manager Mick Marsh was appointed as the new first team manager in December 1999 and the corner was turned.

Marsh, along with his assistant, Gary Lee, had five seasons at the helm.

In Marsh's five seasons the club finished in the top four on four occasions and reached the quarter-finals of the FA Vase in 2003/04, losing 3-0 at Bideford to a hat-trick of penalties from Mike Southgate.

With Marsh retiring from the game at the end of the 2004/05 season to move to Spain, John Robson was brought in as manager.

But the former Andover boss lasted a few months until December 2005 when the club appointed Pike.

In his first full season in the hot-seat, he became the first man to win the Wessex League title with two different clubs.

After winning the title with Wimborne in 1993/94, Pike guided Gosport to the 2006/07 silverware in highly dramatic circumstances.

The title was won on the very last day of the season at rivals AFC Totton.

Gosport had to avoid defeat by two goals to lift the title and on a nervous afternoon eventually lost 1-0 to win the championship on goal difference only.

After completing three solid seasons back in the Southern League, the club pushed for promotion from Division One South & West throughout 2011/12 but were beaten to the runners-up spot by Poole Town.

Dramatic

A home win against Sholing in the play-off semi-final saw Gosport travel to Poole, who had finished just a point above Borough in the regular league season, for a place in the Premier Division.

In a dramatic match watched by over 1,700 fans, Poole were heading for promotion until veteran Steve Claridge equalised for Gosport in the final minute of time added on.

With the Dolphins now mentally drained, Claridge and Justin Bennett added further goals in extra time to return Gosport to the Southern League's Premier Division for the first time since 1990.

Amazingly, they went up again last season, again via the play-offs.

A dreadful start saw them 21st after 11 games, but Pike then masterminded an unbeaten run of 23 matches including 14 wins.

That run included a 7-0 home thrashing of Kettering and a 6-1 romp at St Albans.

Having finished 13 points adrift of runners-up Stourbridge, Gosport went to the Midlanders for the play-off semi-final and won 2-1.

Drawn away in the final against a Hemel Hempstead side who had finished fourth in the table, Gosport drew 2-2 before keeping their nerve in the subsequent penalty shoot-out.

GOSPORT BOROUGH'S LEAGUE RECORD SINCE PROMOTION FROM THE HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE IN 1978

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos
1978-79	SOUTH-1S	40	19	11	10	62	47	49	3/21
1979-80	SOUTH-S	46	21	15	10	70	50	57	4/24
1980-81	SOUTH-S	46	24	12	10	84	52	60	4/24
1981-82	SOUTH-S	46	26	8	12	76	45	60	4/24
1982-83	SOUTH-P	38	14	13	11	47	43	55	7/20
1983-84	SOUTH-P	38	6	15	17	31	64	33	8/20
1984-85	SOUTH-S	38	22	6	10	78	41	72	2/20
1985-86	SOUTH-P	38	10	8	20	42	66	38	18/20
1986-87	SOUTH-P	42	11	13	18	42	57	46	18/22
1987-88	SOUTH-P	42	10	17	15	39	49	47	15/22
1988-89	SOUTH-P	42	18	12	12	73	57	66	7/22
1989-90	SOUTH-P	42	6	5	31	28	93	23	22/22
1990-91	SOUTH-S	40	12	11	17	47	58	47	15/21
1991-92	SOUTH-S	42	6	9	27	32	65	27	22/22
1992-93	WESSEX	40	20	12	8	83	48	72	5/21
1993-94	WESSEX	42	23	10	9	87	55	79	5/22
1994-95	WESSEX	42	17	6	19	83	66	57	10/22
1995-96	WESSEX	40	16	9	15	59	58	57	11/21
1996-97	WESSEX	40	15	5	20	56	66	50	11/21
1997-98	WESSEX	38	9	10	19	48	65	37	15/20
1998-99	WESSEX	38	11	11	16	66	71	44	14/20
1999-00	WESSEX	40	8	12	20	40	70	36	14/21
2000-01	WESSEX	44	23	8	13	74	44	77	8/23
2001-02	WESSEX	44	26	11	7	101	41	89	4/23
2002-03	WESSEX	42	27	7	8	94	43	88	2/22
2003-04	WESSEX	42	29	5	8	96	40	92	3/22
2004-05	WESSEX-1	42	25	9	8	75	49	84	4/22
2005-06	WESSEX-1	42	23	10	9	85	44	79	5/22
2006-07	WESSEX-P	38	27	8	3	87	27	89	1/20
2007-08	STH-1SW	42	18	8	16	69	67	62	11/22
2008-09	STH-1SW	42	15	10	17	64	67	55	12/22
2009-10	STH-1SW	42	19	10	13	80	59	66	8/22
2010-11	STH-1SW	40	16	7	17	58	65	55	13/21
2011-12	STH-1SW	40	22	14	4	73	44	80	3/21*
2012-13	STH-P	42	19	13	10	78	43	70	5/22*

* Promoted via play-offs.

● **Gosport go up again last season, after winning the play-offs for the second season running.**

Southern League Premier Div 2012/13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington	42	30	5	7	85	46	95
Stourbridge	42	25	8	9	94	42	83
Chesham United	42	21	12	9	69	48	75
Hemel Hempstead	42	22	6	14	95	72	72
Gosport Borough	42	19	13	10	78	43	70
Arlesey Town	42	21	6	15	70	51	69
Barwell	42	19	12	11	67	50	69
Cambridge City	42	20	6	16	63	57	66
Weymouth	42	18	8	16	59	71	62
Bedford Town	42	18	7	17	61	56	61
St. Albans City	42	18	6	18	81	71	60
St. Neots Town	42	15	7	20	77	77	52
Hitchin Town	42	15	7	20	62	68	52
AFC Totton	42	15	7	20	62	84	52
Chippenham Town	42	13	12	17	63	67	51
Banbury United	42	14	9	19	60	75	51
Bashley	42	13	10	19	47	63	49
Frome Town	42	11	12	19	40	55	45
Redditch United	42	12	7	23	32	65	43
Bideford	42	11	9	22	58	73	42
Bedworth United	42	11	9	22	39	73	42
Kettering Town*	42	8	8	26	47	102	22

CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 02380 424483

The Pike and Catlin Q & A

Continued from page 25

SW: ***How excited are you to be leading the team out?***

MC: When we walked up to the box for our meeting at Wembley, the sliding doors were opened . . . to think I'll actually be on that pitch.

The Capital Cup final was there the following Sunday so they were setting the ground up for Manchester City.

It's amazing that we'll be next! It's a very nice gesture from Alex.

AP: I've been lucky enough to do it already and I'm not one for the limelight!

MC: I can't say he's got a big ego when he's letting me lead the team out!

SW: ***Is good banter the key to your bro-mance?***

MC: [laughs]: I think so, we get on away from football as well. You can't live in each other's pockets and you need time away from football to switch off but we socialise when we can

AP: We must talk three or four times a day on the phone, people don't see that.

We're lucky in that we run our own businesses so we can make time to do that without offending employers but we have to talk regularly.

MC: That's what people don't realise. More goes on away from the ground than it does at the ground. The games are what we enjoy.

MICK CATLIN

Most of the work is done in our own time, it's almost a full-time job.

The commitment at non-league level is far greater than at professional level because of the time they have to do everything.

Our players do a hard day's work, play a demanding game of football then get up and go to work the next day.

It's credit to them that they've achieved what they have done.

AP: Look at the differences between the two clubs; Cambridge have professional footballers.

Their chairman told me the other day that his turnstile staff are paid for, his stewards are paid for, his bar staff are paid for.

But there are no paid employees at Gosport and that puts it in perspective.

None of our players are paid professionals apart from Josh Carmichael, who's on loan from Bournemouth.

MC: We'd like the opportunity to do it as a living because when you put your heart and soul into something every day of the week you expect to be successful and we've been successful without committing all of our time to it.

It would be nice to see how far we devoted everything to it.

SW: ***Realistically, how far can you take Gosport? You've got a relegation battle on your hands in Skrill South.***

AP: Gosport's where it is, sometimes you have to look at clubs and realise that it's about getting to a certain level and staying there.

Cambridge have a budget of £1.2m and Gosport could never afford that.

But we're determined that we're not going to do a Wigan, get to Wembley and be relegated in the same season.

We knew the league but you have to be in the league to learn about it and there's no doubt in my mind that we'll finish mid-table.

I've got the belief in the players; we've got so many games in hand, we're starting to put together performances and the results will come good.

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

GOSPORT LIVE THE

Boro get set for the biggest day in their history

GOSPORT Borough chairman Mark Hook admits "most people would have laughed" if he'd said three years ago that his club would be going to Wembley.

After back-to-back promotions from the Southern League Division 1 South & West to the Skrill Conference South, even Hook would have to concede he would have chuckled at the suggestion of a FA Trophy final at the home of football, ***writes PETER HOWARD.***

But that's the scale of their rise up the football pyramid and it has culminated in the biggest day in the club's history as they take on Cambridge United for a chance of some major silverware on Sunday.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity not only for the club but the whole town," said Hook, a Conservative councillor for 22 years in the town.

"It's a great feeling, one that I have to say was completely unexpected.

"If you said to me three years ago that we'll be a Conference South team and going to Wembley then most people would have laughed."

That surprising climb is in no part down to the hard work of manager Alex Pike, who won the Sydenhams Premier Division in his first full season at the club in 2006/07.

No kneejerk decisions

Pike led them to play-off victory in the Southern League Division One South & West in 2011/12 and last term, after starting poorly and in real danger of relegation, Boro' went on a 23-game unbeaten run to gain another promotion from the Southern Premier.

They reached the play-offs and won 5-4 on penalties against Hemel Hempstead to gain promotion to the Conference South, where they're currently struggling around the relegation zone.

Hook, unlike other chairmen, has avoided making reaction decisions based on the club's short term form and when they looked to be on the downward spiral.

He has been rewarded for his loyalty to the manager.

"I believe as a chairman that there should be no kneejerk decisions," he said.

"I could say 'we're bottom of the league, let's sack the manager'.

"What good is that going to do?

"I've got tremendous confidence in Alex (Pike) and the team around him, and so if you look at strategy we've brought players in to see us through to the end of the season.

"The great thing is that Alex and I are good friends off the pitch and outside of football and have been for years. We're very like-minded in how we approach things."

What Hook feels he's got in Pike is a manager with the rare ability of winning one-off games when it matters most.

"He did that against Sholing in the first play-off semi-final two seasons ago and then against Poole Town when we equalised in the 90th minute and went on to win it extra-time in 2011/12," Hook recalled.

"He did it against Stourbridge (last season in the Southern League Premier) when we were 1-0 down and won 2-1.

"Then he did it in the final against Hemel Hempstead when we won on penalties.

"And again this season, we've seen it when we've gone to play the likes of Nuneaton.

"They were fourth in the

TOM Killick makes no apology for being envious.

Had it not been for Killick, Alex Pike's decorated curriculum vitae in non-league management could have read very differently.

A key figure in Wimborne Town's 1992 FA Vase triumph under Pike, Killick concedes his former boss's fairytale return to Wembley is "simply astounding".

Pike, who lives near Burley, will bridge a 22-year gap when he takes charge of Gosport Borough in Sunday's FA Trophy final against Cambridge United.

In similar fashion to 1992, when Killick netted twice in Wimborne's 5-3 win over holders Guiseley, Conference South Gosport will start as huge underdogs against the Conference high-fliers.

However, as Poole Town boss Killick, right – a litigation executive by profession – would testify, there is plenty of evidence to suggest another slaying could well be on the cards.

Killick said: "It is difficult to get your head round the extent of the achievement, particularly when you had all the full-time clubs from the Conference in the competition. It is exceptional and typical of Alex Pike.

"Reaching the final of the FA Vase with Wimborne was one thing, but getting to the final of the FA Trophy with Gosport has taken things to a different level for Alex.

"I really don't know how he does it and I don't mean that in a critical way. It probably sounds like sour grapes now, but they beat us in a play-off final a couple of years ago and we were the better team. They were inferior to us but found a way to win that game.

"I understand it was the same last year when they won the Southern League play-off final. They were probably the worst team in the play-offs but ended up winning promotion. People criticise Alex but you can't argue with his success. It is phenomenal and he deserves unbelievable credit for what he has done."

Since taking the reins at his hometown club in December 2005, Pike, who has been dubbed 'the Mourinho of non-league management', has masterminded three promotions, guiding Gosport from the Wessex League to Conference South.

Killick, who has taken Poole from the Wessex League to the Southern Premier, added: "People will probably say Alex is not one of those managers who exudes tactical acumen and awareness and he gets criticised for that, probably more within the game and internally at his clubs.

"But he brings in players, gets them producing and gets positive results. When it comes to the nitty-gritty, he succeeds and is a winner.

"When I look back at my managerial history, I have had a lot of failures. I have lost on the big occasions like the FA Vase semi-final and a play-off final and Alex hasn't done that so I am full of admiration for him.

"His is an unorthodox tale of success and I don't mean that negatively. However he has done it, he has done it and his record is outstanding.

"As a manager, I think you have to be judged on the big moments in your career and there is a fine line between success and failure. I have fallen on the wrong side of the line and Alex always does the opposite. That is something I take my hat off to him for and everybody at Poole Town wishes him and Gosport Borough the best of luck in the final."

THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR NON-LEAGUE NEWS

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

WEMBLEY DREAM

FLASHBACK: Alex Pike after guiding Wimborne to the FA Vase in 1992.

(Conference) Premier at the time and we won against them on penalties.

"He (Pike) is a charismatic individual, an influential character with impeccable man management skills.

"He will get the best out of anyone.

"Alex recognises that his coaches do the job they are tasked with, but he gets the players ready for what they've got to do."

Hook feels there is a Gosport family that have created a philosophy for success. And, while the trip to Wembley will be making history, it is avoiding relegation from the sixth tier of English football that is far more a priority.

"Our bread and butter is to stay in the Conference South," he said.

"That's what we're focussed on.

"Wembley is a great distraction and one that we're going to thoroughly enjoy, but the league is all important to us.

"If you said to me at the beginning of the season 'what would you like to us do?' I'd have said probably a reasonable cup run and to stay in the Conference South. So we've excelled in once sense and the other is still a work in progress."

Success against Cambridge United, who almost won promotion to the first ever Premier League in 1992, will be a historical day in the club's history.

Hook, though, has one eye on the financial rewards for Boro' with further growth and sustaining their place in Conference South in his mind.

The winner of the Trophy will bank £50,000 and the runners-up £25,000.

"The club will get security for the next two or three seasons [if we win]," he said.

"We're not going to blow the budget.

"We're not going to go out next season and sign a big player. That's not how we work.

"We will look at investment to put into the ground, but we won't go mad just because we have money.

"There is no backing by financial institutions or by major backers, meaning we have to look at their finances very carefully.

"I'm delighted that there are some 45 businesses in Gosport that support the club in various ways.

"That means we're not reliable on that one big sponsor, which is a huge benefit to the club.

"For a club like us to succeed, they've got to get it right on and off the pitch.

"There's no point in a squad that can deliver promotions if the ground isn't big enough.

"Likewise, there's no point in investing lots in the ground if you haven't got a squad, so there is that fine balance.

"At all times you have to be aiming to be cost neutral for the end of the season.

"If that doesn't happen you must address that the following season and budget within your means, and then I think clubs can survive.

"It is a testament to how financially shrewd the club is that they've managed to reach the Skrill South on a limited budget. We are essentially a family and friends run club."

Hook, although business-minded, admits he is excited about the prospect of winning the FA Trophy.

"It's difficult to express, it will be surreal, and I'll have to ask myself 'is this real?'.

"Things like this don't normally happen to small clubs like us.

"It's a first time experience for me.

"Whether you're the chairman, a player, volunteers or supporters, the whole thing is just to enjoy the day.

"I'm hoping that's what we can do.

"It'll be a memory of a lifetime for thousands of people and our part is to make sure they have a great day."

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR FA TROPHY FINAL REPORT AND REACTION

GOSPORT'S CONFERENCE SOUTH RESULTS 2013/14

Aug 17 Dover (H) ..... L 0-1
Aug 20 Basingstoke (A) ..... L 1-2
Brown.
Aug 24 Bath (A) ..... D 1-1
Brown
Aug 26 Dorchester (H) ..... D 1-1
Wooden.
Aug 31 Bromley (A) ..... L 1-2
Bennett.
Sep 7 Maidenhead (H) ..... L 0-2
Sep 14 Boreham (A) ..... L 2-0
Sep 21 Tonbridge (H) ..... W 2-0
Brown, Williams.
Oct 5 Bishops Stortford (A) ..... L 0-4
Oct 19 Ebbsfleet (A) ..... L 1-2
Pearce.
Oct 26 Chelmsford (H) W2-1
Brown, Wooden.
Nov 2 Whitehalk (A) D1-1
Bennett.
Nov 12 Eastleigh (H) ..... L 0-2
Nov 16 Dorchester (H) ..... W 3-0
Dunford 2, Bennett.
Nov 22 Farnborough (A) ..... L 0-1
Nov 26 Staines (H) ..... W 2-0
Richardson, Gosney.
Nov 30 Concord (H) ..... W 1-0
Gosney
Dec 7 Concord (A) ..... W 0-2
Wooden, Williams.
Dec 14 Nuneaton (H) ..... D 0-0
Dec 17 Nuneaton (A) ..... D 0-0
Dec 26 Havant (A) ..... L 0-3
Jan 18 Eastleigh (A) ..... L 1-2
Woodward.
Jan 25 Weston (A) ..... W 1-0
Brown
Feb 4 Sutton (H) ..... D 2-2
Igoe, Gosney
Feb 11 Whitehalk (H) ..... L 0-2
Feb 25 Eastbourne (H) ..... L 1-2
Wooden
Mar 1 Dover (A) ..... L 0-3
Mar 4 Basingstoke (H) ..... L 2-3
Williams, Matthews.
Mar 8 Staines (A) ..... W 3-0
Williams 3.
Mar 11 Havant (H) ..... D 0-0
Mar 13 Maidenhead (A) ..... W 2-1
Bennett 2.
Mar 15 Boreham W (H) ..... W 2-1
Bennett 2
Mar 18 Sutton (A) ..... L 0-2

CAMBRIDGE UNITED'S CONFERENCE PREMIER RESULTS 2013/14

Aug 11 Halifax (H) ..... W 5-1
Cunnington-2, Donaldson, Sam-Yorke-2
Aug 14 Welling (A) ..... D 2-2
Lafayette, Clarke
Aug 17 Aldershot (A) ..... W 1-0
Oastler
Aug 24 Lincoln (H) ..... W 1-0
Berry
Aug 26 Luton (A) ..... D 0-0
Aug 31 Tamworth (H) ..... W 3-0
Cunnington, Berry-2
Sep 7 Hyde (A) ..... W 1-0
Cunnington
Sep 14 Gateshead (H) W1-0
Cunnington
Sep 17 Alfreton (A) D1-1
Donaldson
Sep 21 Forest Green (H) ..... W 2-1
Berry, Champion
Sep 24 Nuneaton (H) ..... W 3-0
Berry, Appiah, Dunk
Sep 28 Wrexham (A) D1-1
Appiah
Oct 5 Hereford (H) W1-0
Appiah
Oct 8 Grimsby (A) ..... W 1-0
Cunnington
Oct 12 Chester (A) ..... D 0-0
Oct 19 Salisbury (H) ..... W 2-0
Kwesi, Appiah
Nov 2 Southport (A) ..... L 0-1
Nov 12 Aldershot (H) ..... W 4-0
Berry, Appiah, Cunnington, Arnold
Nov 16 Barnet (A) ..... D 2-2
Kwesi, Appiah
Nov 19 Bury (A) ..... D 0-0
Nov 23 Woking (H) ..... W 2-0
Harrison, Dunk
Dec 10 Macclesfield (H) ..... W 3-0
Kwesi, Appiah, Gilies
Dec 21 Hereford (A) ..... L 0-1
Dec 26 Braintree (H) ..... W 1-0
Berry
Dec 28 Nuneaton (A) ..... D 0-0
Jan 18 Halifax (A) ..... D 1-1
Elliott
Jan 21 Tamworth (A) ..... W 1-0
Hughes
Jan 25 Dartford (A) ..... D 3-3
Bird-2, Berry
Jan 28 Grimsby (H) L1-2
Berry
Feb 11 Alfreton (H) ..... L 0-1
Feb 18 Wrexham (H) ..... D 0-0
Feb 25 Braintree (A) ..... L 0-1
Mar 1 Kidderminster (H) ..... W 5-1
Coulsen, Bird, Sam-Yorke, Berry, Pugh
Mar 8 Forest Green (A) ..... L 2-3
Coulsen, Arnold
Mar 11 Luton (H) ..... D 1-1
Cullen
Mar 15 Dartford (H) ..... D 1-1
Eliott
Mar 18 Welling (H) ..... W 2-1
Cunnington, Sam-Yorke

FA Trophy final: Gosport v Cambridge United ...

EMOTIONAL: Gosport's Tim Sills.

Wembley day out means the world to Gosport hitman Sills

THERE will be a lot of familiar faces looking on at Wembley for Gosport Borough's Tim Sills as they take on Cambridge United in the FA Trophy final, ***writes PETER HOWARD.***

He'll be watched by the Boro' faithful along with more than 15 members of his family, but the U's fans will also be familiar with the Romsey-born striker.

Sills scored the second goal in a 2-0 play-off victory over United in the 2008/09 Conference National final at the home of football.

And while the Cambridge fans will be on tenterhooks that Sills doesn't haunt them again, it will be Gosport fans who will be hoping that he can write a new chapter in the club's history after already notching crucial goals in the semi and quarter-finals.

Sills is aware of how much it means to the Privett Park faithful to be going to a Wembley final.

"It must mean the world to them, it's fantastic that they feel that affinity with their local club," he said.

"They've had two promotions in two years.

"If you said to them years ago 'you're going to get a Wembley visit' I don't think anyone would have believed that was even remotely possible."

Sills' children will watch their father take to the pitch for one last hurrah on England's home ground.

And while it will be another trip to Wembley for wife Hannah, it will be new surroundings for baby Caleb and a big day for 10-year-old son Ethan, who will be leading Gosport out as mascot.

While his wife, new born and daughter Imogen watch on, Sills admits it will be tough to not become emotional and concentrate on the football.

"My little boy is going to be mascot and I'll have to try and keep my emotions in check about that," he said.

"It's just a case of getting down to business.

"Hopefully it'll be a case of being on the pitch and motivating everyone to get their jobs down.

"There is so much mental preparation that goes into a final like this."

GOAL-DEN BOY: Tim Sills, 9, heads a goal for Gosport in their FA Trophy semi final win over neighbours Havant.

GOSPORT Borough veteran Tim Sills has hailed the management partnership of Alex Pike and Mick Catlin ahead of the FA Trophy final.

The duo led Boro into the Conference South for the first time in their history with back-to-back promotions through the Southern Leagues and now to the FA Trophy final, ***writes PETER HOWARD.***

"They bounce off each-other really well," said Sills of the assistant Catlin and manager Pike.

"You know, it goes from being very serious when we're not playing well to motivating us to get back on track. Other times they are like a comedy duo that gets the boys whipped up.

"They have a great deal of respect for each-other, which always helps.

"When you can see that as a player, I've been really impressed by them.

"They make a very successful partnership.

"It's just motivational stuff, they try not to big up too much and they make sure everyone is focuses on what they're doing.

"Once in a while, Alex comes out with a few contradictions of himself.

"Before the semi-final he gave a massive speech about how we weren't going to change anything and we would play the same way.

"Then he paused and said 'having said that' then he went through about 20 changes that we were making.

"That's great he didn't mean to be funny but suddenly people are uplifted so when he doesn't know he's doing it he's a genius."

The Catlin/Pike team, it seems, have gone a long way to creating an excellent team spirit too.

Romsey born Sills is at his 15th club and Gosport's changing room harmony is up there with any of the other clubs he has played for.

"I've been quite fortunate to play for clubs with incredible team spirit with lots of players coming from local areas and playing for the badge," he explained.

"That's the same as Gosport.

"There are a lot of local boys and the club means so much to them.

"Football means a lot to them too, which is important, especially at this level.

"Everyone looks after each-other and feels comfortable in each-others company.

"It makes a huge difference day-to-day."

GOOD PARTNERSHIP: Alex Pike, left, and Mick Catlin.

Loanee 'should seize the day'

CHERRIES boss Eddie Howe has urged Josh Carmichael to seize his Wembley moment should the youngster step onto the hallowed turf this weekend.

Midfielder Carmichael is part of the Gosport Borough squad that will take on Cambridge United in the FA Trophy final, having extended his loan spell at Privett Park a fortnight ago.

A defender during his playing days, Howe featured at Wembley in the 1997-98 Auto Windscreen Shield final aged 20, when Cherries were sunk 2-1 by Grimsby Town, and he wants Carmichael to show his true ability in the showpiece contest.

Howe said: "It has to be one of the best days of my life when I walked out at a venue I had seen on TV so many times and to actually play there was a dream.

"To have it so early in my career was very special and my only regret was that I never went back.

"My advice would be to make the most of it because you might not get the chance again.

"It does fly by – I think life flies by in general – so your football career is just a blur at times.

ENJOY THE DAY: Josh Carmichael.

"When you get an opportunity like this, you want to try and remember as much of it as you can.

"It can be a nervous experience but once the game kicks off, it's the same as any other game and I certainly look back at it as one of my career highlights."

Howe believes that former Poole Grammar School pupil Carmichael, 19, will learn a lot from the experience if the development squad starlet gets the opportunity to shine.

"Having to deal with the atmosphere, the coverage and the whole experience can only build you as a young footballer," said Howe.

"Hopefully it will be a great day for him if he plays and getting the Wembley experience will be invaluable to him going forward.

"That's the beauty of the loan system.

"We're able to send him out into this type of pressurised atmosphere which will only increase his development.

"He's done very well since going on loan, we've been really pleased with him and have watched him several times, so it's the best place for him at the moment."

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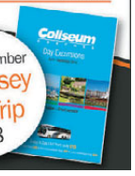

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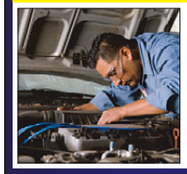

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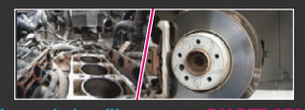

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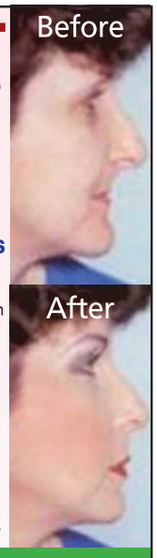

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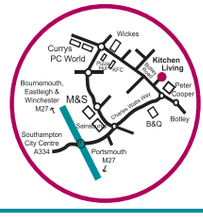

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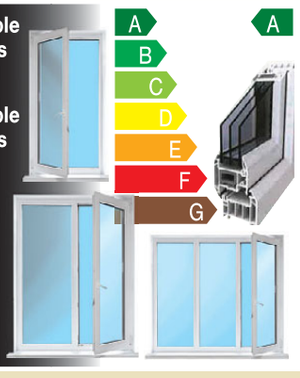

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Wimborne defender Billy pens new deal

BILLY Maybury has signed a new deal for Wimborne Town that will keep him at Cuthbury until the end of next season.

The 20-year-old defender, pictured below, is one of several players to sign new deals or contract extensions as manager Steve Cuss strives to build a side capable of lifting the Magpies out of the Calor Southern One South & West.

"I'm delighted Billy has decided to re-commit for us," said Cuss.

"He has established himself in the first team and is a fine example of the calibre of player I want in the squad."

Maybury, a left-sided player, originally joined Wimborne on loan from AFC Bournemouth for part of the 2011/12 season and later made the move permanent.

Two defeats this week mean the

mid-table Magpies are highly unlikely to achieve their promotion ambitions term.

They lost 3-1 at Clevedon Town on Saturday before crashing to a controversial 72nd-minute decider at Didcot on Tuesday.

An appeal for a throw-in went against the Cuthbury men, Didcot took it quickly and James Mills tapped home a cross by ex-Saints and AFC Totton winger Josh Dutton-Black.

With Wimborne's playing resources stretched through injury, player/assistant manager Paul Roast made his 400th start for the club.

"It's a massive achievement for Roasty," said skipper Scott Arnold. "It's great he was able to show he can still do a job for us.

Arnold, though, was not so pleased about Didcot's winner. "The referee got it wrong with the throw-in leading up to the goal," he said. "We lost concentration and paid the price.

"It's so disappointing we didn't come away with a point."

EASTLEIGH ACE GREEN DRAWS ON MEMORIES OF HIS TOTTON TITLE TRIUMPH

IF Eastleigh needed any reassurance that it is possible to swallow the bitter pill of a play-off defeat and rebound to emerge top of the pile 12 months later, they had to look no further than Michael Green.

The Spitfires left-back was part of an AFC Totton outfit that in 2010 had its hopes of promotion from the Southern Football League Division One South & West dashed by Cirencester Town at the last-four stage of the post-season contest, *writes PAUL McNAMARA.*

One year on, a final day victory at Gosport Borough saw the Stags claim the league title.

Silverlake Stadium fans' favourite Green, although cautioning that his present club's task is even more onerous than that which Totton encountered three years ago, is looking to draw on the memories of 2011.

"It's definitely in the back of my mind that that's what we did at Totton, and we want to go and do the same at Eastleigh. It is a higher level here, and so it's a bigger ask, but hopefully having that experience will prove valuable," he said.

Green picked up the only red card of his career in last term's play-off first-leg defeat by Dover Athletic, so sat out the return tie that eventually ended in penalty-shoot out heartbreak for his team.

Watching from the sidelines is something that the 24 year-old has had to endure on a few occasions this term, with competition so fierce for places in Richard Hill's Conference South championship chasing outfit.

"You just have to work hard to try and get back in and then, when you do get into the side, do everything you can in the games to keep yourself there."

Not securing a regular spot in the Spitfires' first eleven is actually not an entirely new phenomenon for a player who, as a rookie 20 year-old, first pitched up at the Silverlake in the summer of 2009.

"I had been playing for Christchurch in the Wessex League, and was asked by Eastleigh to go to Hong Kong to play in the Soccer Sevens, which was a trial for me really," he recalled.

"I signed a contract off the back of that but there were about three or four people ahead of me for a place in the side.

"I was only young and, realistically, I wasn't going to get into the team.

"I had the chance to go to Totton on loan, and before long they asked me to sign permanently.

"I enjoyed it there. We had a good team, and being part of that definitely helped my development.

"I do still keep an eye on how they do now.

"They're struggling a bit at the moment, but I'm hopeful that they can pick up soon.

"I've got mates who play at quite a few of the local clubs so I follow them all. I'm interested in everything that's going on."

When he returned to Eastleigh, initially on a one month loan deal in October 2011, Green was a Port Vale player.

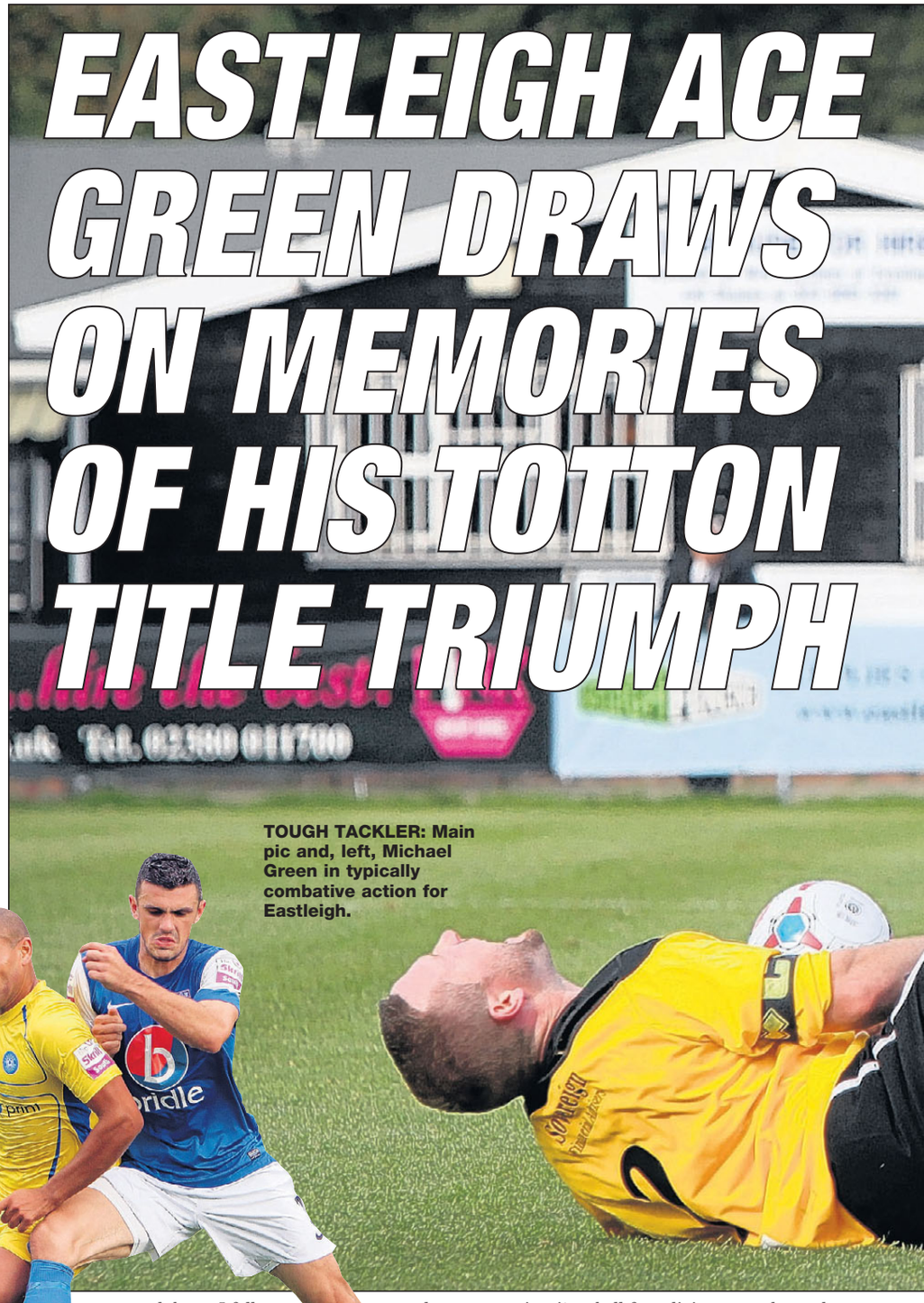
His consistently stellar displays at the Testwood Stadium had already made the defender's name one of the most keenly discussed on the local non-league circuit, when former Saints left-back Micky Adams, the manager at Vale Park, moved to take Green to the then League Two club.

"It was something completely new to me at the time. But, jumping from working nine to five and training in the evenings, to playing football for a living was a huge change in lifestyle," Green remembered.

A little over three months after becoming a Southern League title winner with Totton, Green was making a League Two debut at his new home, playing in a frenetic 2-2 draw against Crawley Town in front of 5,889 spectators.

Green's stay in the Potteries, however, would be short-lived.

Injured, and in need of match action, Green, who confesses that he was homesick, was offered the perfect solution by then Spitfires boss



TOUGH TACKLER: Main pic and, left, Michael Green in typically combative action for Eastleigh.

THE PINK AND DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

FLASHBACK: Michael Green in his Totton days.

Ian Baird. The loanee linked up with a very different Eastleigh FC to today's upwardly mobile version.

A predominantly inexperienced unit, depleted by a number of summer departures, was struggling for goals and had won only three of its opening 12 matches.

Green's influence, though, was immediate; scoring on his first appearance in a 3-0 victory over a high-flying Welling United team.

Since that day, he's not wanted to be anywhere else – even if it meant operating back in non-league.

"I wanted to get back down south, and play down here.

"I got injured while I was at Port Vale and needed to go out on loan to play some games.

"I came back to Eastleigh and really enjoyed it so I wanted to stay. After enjoying my first month so much, I didn't want to leave again.

I was playing every week and really loving my football.

"If you're happy you play better, don't you?"

Green's permanent arrival coincided with Eastleigh's takeover by Stewart Donald, a landmark event that has since changed the face of the club.

He is, therefore, perfectly placed to judge the significant impact on his employers of their ambitious owners – not least in terms of the quality of player now plying their trade under Hill's charge.

"It's been massive. The club has moved on loads. We've got such a good side now.

"When I came on loan they had just started doing the 'full-time training', (a group of developing players were contracted to the club full-time) but it was quite a young side.

"When I first came back we picked up, won a few games and started climbing the table a bit.

"Then, very soon after that, the takeover happened and the team started being strengthened.

"I could tell very quickly that the club was going to head in the right direction.

"Playing in League Two might have been a little bit quicker, and it demanded a higher level of fitness.

"But, in this league now, you have to be at the top of your game all the time. If you make a mistake it is usually punished.

"I'm playing with an extremely good set of players here now and we're moving towards that standard."

Green being closer to home makes life easier for his family, plenty of whom can be seen in regular attendance to watch one of their flock bombing up and down the Silverlake touchline.

Indeed, if he is in need of additional guidance, he can turn to father Kevin, himself a former Wessex League winner with Bashley and Lymington.

"My family like coming to matches. They all love football and have always come to watch. Even when I was at Port Vale.

"I speak to him (Dad) after most games. He says what he thinks, and we always have a chat. He's full of advice and always tells me when I've done something wrong!'

Recalled one month ago for the Spitfires' 1-0 win at Farnborough, the player renowned for his inexhaustible energy reserves is perhaps now hitting his richest vein of form in this campaign.

Feeling at home with Eastleigh, and determined to retain his starting spot, Green is hopeful that his career will evolve in tandem with his club making unprecedented progress.

"I feel good at the moment and I'm enjoying it. It's a delicate balance. You do have to be confident if you want to win any league, without ever becoming complacent.

"Every footballer wants to play as high in the leagues as they can."

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SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE EASTLEIGH FC NEWS

Non-league News

Fawley's Colin is a busy boy

FAWLEY AFC boss Colin Lane had a packed weekend of football.

Having steered the relegation-battling Oilers to a creditable 1-1 draw at Bemerton Heath Harlequins in the Sydenhams Premier Division, he turned his attentions to the women's game on Sunday.

Lane's 19-year-old daughter Rosanna is a centre-back for Oxford United in the Women's Super League and the youngster was in action in Liverpool on Sunday playing against Everton.

Lane, a big admirer of the women's game, marvelled: "The way Everton Ladies pass the ball is unbelievable.

"The passing in the women's game is brilliant to watch and I think women's football is going to take off."

Rosanna, better known as Rosie, learned her trade at the Southampton Centre of Excellence until the age of 14.

She then spent five years at Reading's centre of excellence, progressing into the women's team and winning the 2012/13 FA Women's Premier League Southern Division.

She joined Oxford United in January this year ahead of the start of their 2014 debut in the FA Women's Super League 2 and travels to Oxford three nights a week to train.

Proud dad, Lane, pictured, meanwhile believes that being able to field an unchanged side has enhanced Fawley's chances of Wessex top-flight survival.

Their recent undefeated run of two draws and a win has coincided with fielding the same outfield players three games running.

"That makes a big difference," he said.

"It won't last because we've got three or four unavailable for midweek games coming up – and some are winnable games as well.

"We've got a couple missing to play Alresford this Tuesday, but we'll get round that. On paper, it's not one we should win.

"It's the games against Christchurch (away, April 2) and Downton (home, April 5) that we want a full squad for."

Fawley edged ahead around the half-hour mark at Bemerton when Matt Vining netted the rebound after Callum Earl's free-kick had been parried.

They clung to that lead until midway through the second half when Joe Sanger took possession ten yards inside the Oilers' half, ran at the defence and hit a good finish from outside the box.

"We cleared three off the line but, like I said to Chalky (Bemerton boss Ian Chalk), that's what defenders are for!" laughed Lane.

Non-league Football

Eastleigh 2013/14

Conference South

August
17 Sutton (H) . . . . . .W1-0 Odubade
20 Bath City (A) . . . . . .W1-0 Strevens
24 Basingstoke (A) L0-2
26 Havant and W (H) . . . . . .D 0-0
31 Boreham Wood (A) . . . . .W 3-0 McAllister, Fleetwood, Reason

September
7 Bromley (H) . . . . . .W 2-1 McAllister, Fleetwood
14 Maidenhead (A) . . . . . .W 3-1 Odubade 2, McAllister
17 Eastbourne (H) . . . . . .W 2-0 Reason, Southam
21 Hayes and Y (H) . . . . . .W 1-0 McAllister

October
5 Concord (H) . . . . . .D 1-1 Reason
8 Ebbsfleet (A) . . . . . .L 1-3 Fleetwood
19 Staines (H) . . . . . .W 1-0 Reason

November
2 Sutton (A) . . . . . .D 1-1 McAllister
9 Farnborough (H) . . . . . W 1-0 McAllister
12 Gosport (A) . . . . . .W 2-0 Odubade, Southam
23 Tonbridge (H) . . . . . .L 1-2 Collins

December
17 Dover (A) . . . . . .W 2-1 Strevens, Fleetwood
21 Chelmsford City (H) . . . . . .PP
26 Dorchester Town (A) . . . .W -2-1 Strevens, Reason
28 Bath City (H) . . . . . .W 2-1 Strevens, Collins

January
1 Dorchester Town (H) . . . . . .PP
4 Eastbourne Borough . . . . . PP
11 Bishop's Stortford . . . . . .PP
18 Gosport Borough, H . . . .W 2-1 McAllister Strevens
21 Weston-super-Mare, A . . .L 2-3 McAllister, Odubade
25 Ebbsfleet, H . . . . . .W 3-1 Reason 3
28 Bromley, A . . . . . .pp

February
15 Tonbridge Angels (A) . . . . .L 2-1 Fleetwood
22 Farnborough (A) . . . . . .W 1-0 Wright
25 Maidenhead (H) . . . . . .W 3-2 Connolly, Fleetwood, Strevens

March
1 Weston-super-Mare (H) . . .W 3-2 Wright, Reason, McAllister
4 Eastbourne Borough (A) . . .D 1-1 Simpemba
8 Concord Rangers (A) . . . . . L 2-3 Wright, Strevens
11 Chelmsford (H) . . . . . .W 1-0 Connolly
15 Bishop's Stortford (H) . . .W 4-2 Wright 3, McAllister
18 Whitehawk (A) . . . . . .W 4-1 McAllister 2, Wright, Connolly
22 Staines Town . . . . . (A)
25 Dorchester . . . . . .(H)
29 Hayes and Yeading U . . . . . (A)

April
1 Bishop's Stortford . . . . . .(A)
5 Whitehawk . . . . . (H)
8 Bromley . . . . . .(A)
12 Chelmsford City . . . . . .(A)
15 Dover . . . . . .(H)
18 Basingstoke Town . . . . . (H)
21 Havant and W . . . . . .(A)
26 Boreham Wood . . . . . .(H)

RED SPELLS DANGER

AS REECE Connolly launched into a three-match ban at Staines Town this weekend, Eastleigh manager Richard Hill said: "The more you look back on his sending-off at Concord, the bigger that decision looks."

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

Hill felt at the time that Connolly's challenge on Concord's Steve King looked an honest one and, having seen it again on DVD, he has not changed his mind.

Connolly's contribution as a wide attacker has been instrumental in helping to carry Eastleigh to the Skrill Conference South summit with handsome back-to-back victories over Bishop's Stortford (4-2) and Whitehawk (4-1) this week.

But just when they look to have found the magic formula up front, the former Aldershot and Farnborough frontman faces a frustrating week on the sidelines, also missing Tuesday's home game against Dorchester and next Sunday's rearranged trip to Hayes & Yeading.

"I have seen Reece's challenge again and I still believe it was yellow at worst," said Hill.

"His studs were showing, but he made an honest attempt to get the ball and didn't go out to hurt the player.

"My biggest complaint though is that we should have been given a penalty just before Reece was sent off when their centre-half has smashed through the back of Ben Strevens in the box.

"Reece took a touch and then, for his second touch, he went in for that challenge.

"The ref waved his arms to indicate no penalty (on Strevens), but no one on the pitch appealed for one, so he must have seen something to do that.

"And just prior to that Reece should have had a penalty himself when the lad's gone through the side of him to knock the ball out for a corner.

"Looking back, sending Reece off was a big decision from the official.

"To my mind he was sent off wrongfully and I still think Stuart Fleetwood shouldn't have been sent off against Bath City because he should have had a free kick just before."

Red cards have been quite a feature of Eastleigh's games this season – the majority being brandished against the Spitfires.

Last Saturday Bishop's Stortford's Jordan Brown saw a straight red for a feisty challenge on right-back Dan Spence and on Tuesday Whitehawk skipper Tom Fraser let his frustrations get the better of him with a lunging challenge on Glen Southam.

"The lad's gone right down Southam's shin and left studmarks, but just before that their centre-half has punched Ben Strevens," Hill alleged.

"I think the ref's sent the second lad off instead of the first one, but it was nice to have a kind official for a change.

"A couple of them (Whitehawk players) could have been riled, but we've been riled in the past and haven't felt we've had the rub of the green.

"But I've said at the weekend that I've spent my whole career since I was 16 battling referees and I've never won!"

While Eastleigh were busy beating Whitehawk, former leaders Bromley got themselves back on track with a much improved 2-1 home victory over Tommy Widdrington's Eastbourne Borough.

It took them onto 66 points, one behind Hill's rampant Spitfires – the Kent club's record points tally as a Conference South club.

UNLUCKY RED CARD: Stuart Fleetwood

BANNED: Eastleigh's Reece Connolly, right, misses three games after being sent off against Concord Rangers.

How Eastleigh's fellow top five clubs have been performing ... and the list

Bromley

The last 10 games

Jan 14 Concord (H) . . . . . .L 1-2
Jan 18 Bath (A) . . . . . .W 2-1
Jan 25 Hayes & Yeading (H) . .W 2-3
Feb 15 Dorchester (A) . . . . . .L 2-3
Feb 22 Boreham (H) . . . . . .W 2-1
Mar 1 Bath (H) . . . . . .D 2-2
Mar 4 Sutton (H) . . . . . .L 2-4
Mar 8 Chelmsford (A) . . . . . .L 1-3
Mar 11 Dover (H) . . . . . .L 0-4
Mar 15 Farnborough (A) . . . . . L 1-2
Mar 18 Eastbourne (H) . . . . . .W 2-1

Remaining games

Mar 22 Maidenhead . . . . . .(H)
Mar 25 Staines . . . . . (A)
Mar 29 Eastbourne . . . . . (A)
Apr 5 Havant . . . . . (A)
Apr 8 Eastleigh . . . . . (H)
Apr 12 Weston . . . . . (H)
Apr 19 Tonbridge . . . . . (A)
Apr 21 Bishop's Stortford . . . . . (H)
Apr 26 Gosport . . . . . (A)

Sutton United

The last 10 games

Jan 11 Chelmsford (A) . . . . . .W 2-0
Jan 25 Basingstoke (A) . . . . . .W 1-0
Feb 4 Gosport (A) . . . . . .D 2-2
Feb 15 Weston (H) . . . . . .W 3-0
Feb 18 Dover (A) . . . . . .W 1-0
Feb 22 Eastbourne (A) . . . . . .D 1-1
Mar 1 Chelmsford (H) . . . . . .W 2-0
Mar 4 Bromley (A) . . . . . .W 4-2
Mar 8 Farnborough (A) . . . . . .W 2-1
Mar 15 Basingstoke (H) . . . . . .W 4-0
Mar 18 Gosport (H) . . . . . .W 2-0

Remaining games

Mar 22 Dorchester . . . . . .(A)
Mar 25 Hayes & Yeading . . . . . .(A)
Mar 29 Bath . . . . . (H)
Apr 1 Boreham . . . . . (H)
Apr 3 Havant . . . . . (H)
Apr 5 Maidenhead . . . . . (A)
Apr 12 Ebbsfleet . . . . . (H)
Apr 19 Bishop's Stortford . . . . . (A)
Apr 21 Concord . . . . . .(H)
Apr 26 Whitehawk . . . . . (A)

LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Non-league Football

FOR PROMOTION BID

SUTTON MOVE: Poole Town defender Will Spetch, right.

Spetch steps up to joins Spitfires' rivals

POOLE Town's star centre-back Will Spetch is joining Eastleigh's Skrill Conference South title rivals Sutton United for an undisclosed fee believed to be in the region of £5,000-£7,000.

The 22-year-old defender is set to sign a deal which will keep him with the U's – who train three times a week – until the summer of 2016.

Having seen his stock rise on the back of some dominant performances at Tatnam, Spetch courted the interest of several Football League clubs and trialled with AFC Bournemouth, Portsmouth, AFC Wimbledon and Port Vale.

In the absence of an offer from the professional ranks, Spetch had vowed to focus on his football with the Dolphins before Sutton's ex-Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell swooped last week.

With Poole still very much in the hunt for a Calor Southern Premier play-off place, manager Tom Killick admitted the timing of Spetch's move was "disappointing from our point of view."

But he stressed: "When Will signed his contract, we always said we would not be obstructive if anyone came in, particularly if it was an offer of full-time football."

"There will be eyebrows raised as to why we are allowing someone who is, arguably, our best player to leave at this stage of the season, but people who know the background and personal element will understand," said Killick.

"We felt we needed to do the right thing by Will and that is how it came about.

"I always said that if Will made it clear he wanted to go, it would make it pretty impossible for us to stand in his way.

"That would not be the case with every contractual situation, but as disappointed as we are to lose him, everyone felt it was the right way to conduct things.

"I have always had a great relationship with Will and have a great deal of respect and affection for him.

"We are all immensely grateful for what he has done for the club an I hope everything turns out well for him."

Killick intends to draft in another defender to replace Spetch, but would not be drawn on the prospect of a return for former Poole captain Michael Walker.

Walker is contracted to divisional rivals Weymouth, but has been on the transfer list since December.

Sutton's Silverlake connection

A HOST of former Eastleigh players are helping Sutton United's Conference South promotion push.

The Surrey side have had a strong Spitfires connection ever since former Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell was appointed their manager in May 2008.

Six one-time Eastleigh players have turned out for Sutton this season.

The club's top league scorer so far is 13-goal Jamie Slabber, below, who was the Spitfires' top marksman with over 20 strikes in 2010/11.

His most recent strike came in the vital 4-2 win at then leaders Bromley.

Sutton actually trailed 2-1 in that game until they turned the match around with three goals in the last 11 minutes.

Sub Dean Sinclair – who once scored for Barnet at Old Trafford in a League Cup tie – netted twice with striker Craig Dundas also scoring.

Another Eastleigh old boy, Damien Scannell, has struck four league goals this season, including one each in recent wins against Farnborough and Basingstoke.

Scannell opened the scoring in the 4-0 rout of Basingstoke last weekend in a game watch by an impressive crowd of 2,172.

The club gave free admission to everyone, and were rewarded with easily the best attendance in the Conference South this season.

Doswell, meanwhile, is by no means short of strike options.

He also has ex-Hereford and Lincoln City forward Gavin McCallum and Jamie Taylor, who was Lincoln's top scorer in the Conference Premier in 2012/13.

Slabber was only on the bench against Basingstoke, with Dundas and Taylor preferred as the starting strikers.

McCallum and Taylor were on target on Tuesday as Sutton recorded their fifth straight league win 2-0 against FA Trophy finalists Gosport Borough.

Other ex-Eastleigh men in the Sutton squad are Dale Binns, Anthony Riviere, Marvin Williams and Mitchell Nelson.

Good omen

TWO of the last four Conference South champions have gone on to win promotion again to the Football League.

AFC Wimbledon and Newport County provide the template which Eastleigh will be hoping to follow if they can win the South title in the next few weeks.

Former Conference South champions

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
2004-05	Grays	42	30	8	4	118	31	98
2005-06	Weymouth	42	30	4	8	80	34	94
2006-07	Histon	42	30	4	8	85	44	94
2007-08	Lewes	42	27	8	7	81	39	89
2008-09	AFC Wimbl'	42	26	10	6	86	36	88
2009-10	Newport	42	32	7	3	93	26	103
2010-11	Braintree	42	27	8	7	78	33	89
2012-13	Welling	42	26	8	8	90	44	86

of games they have left as they bid to overhaul the table topping Spitfires

Ebbsfleet United

The last 10 games

Jan 25 Eastleigh (A) ..... L 1-3
Feb 1 Weston (H) ..... D 1-1
Feb 3 Chelmsford (A) ..... W 2-1
Feb 15 Staines (H) ..... W 3-0
Mar 1 Farnborough (H) ..... W 3-0
Mar 4 Bath (A) ..... D 2-2
Mar 8 Hayes & Yeading (H) ... W 1-0
Mar 11 Tonbridge (A) ..... W 2-0
Mar 15 Whitehalk (A) ..... D 1-1
Mar 17 Havant (A) ..... L 0-1

Remaining games

Mar 22 Boreham ..... (A)
Mar 27 Gosport ..... (A)
Mar 29 Tonbridge ..... (H)
Apr 5 Staines ..... (A)
Apr 12 Sutton ..... (A)
Apr 15 Concord ..... (A)
Apr 18 Eastbourne ..... (H)
Apr 21 Maidenhead ..... (A)
Apr 26 Dorchester ..... (H)

Dover

The last 10 games

Jan 25 Boreham (A) ..... D 2-2
Feb 1 Chelmsford (H) ..... D 2-2
Feb 11 Maidenhead (H) ..... W 2-0
Feb 15 Bath (H) ..... W 2-0
Feb 18 Sutton (H) ..... L 0-1
Feb 22 Weston (A) ..... L 1-2
Mar 1 Gosport (H) ..... W 3-0
Mar 8 Basingstoke (H) ..... D 1-1
Mar 11 Bromley (A) ..... W 4-0
Mar 15 Maidenhead (A) ..... W 2-1
Mar 20 Havant (A) ..... W 4-3

Remaining games

Mar 22 Eastbourne ..... (H)
Mar 25 Farnborough ..... (H)
Mar 29 Boreham ..... (H)
Apr 5 Bishop's Stortford ..... (A)
Apr 10 Tonbridge ..... (A)
Apr 12 Staines ..... (H)
Apr 15 Eastleigh ..... (A)
Apr 19 Concord ..... (A)
Apr 21 Whitehalk ..... (H)
Apr 26 Hayes and Yeading ..... (A)

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD – SEE PAGE 42

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18 Apr : Easter in North Devon (Bideford) 4 day	£199
18 Apr : Bournemouth & The Ken Dodd Show 4 day	£199
19 Apr : Bank Holiday Mystery Tour 3 day	£159
21 Apr : Italy - Lake Maggoire 8 day	£699
21 Apr : Bulbfields, Ghent & Ostend 5 day	£299
22 Apr : 1950s Kent inc. "Call the Midwife" 5 day	£335
26 Apr : The Rhine Valley 7 day	£495
28 Apr : A Cornish Gem 5 day	£339
01 May : Norwich, Sandringham & The Broads 5 day	£359
04 May : Derbyshire & The Peak District 6 day	£339
05 May : Warners Thorsby Hall 5 Day	£469
08 May : Malvern Spring Flower Show 3 day	£209
09 May : Gardens of Cornwall 4day	£267
09 May : Costa Brava - Roses 10 day	£585
09 May : Ostend 4 day	£259
09 May : Folkestone & Brugge 4 day	£169
10 May : Jersey by Air 8 day	£509
10 May : Welsh Coast - Barmouth 8 day	£499
11 May : Llandudno & Portmeirion 7 day	£457
12 May : Lincolnshire 4 day	£198
17 May : Llandudno & Snowdonia 5 day	£349
17 May : Lake Garda & Venice 9 day	£729
19 May : Torquay Steam & Sail 5 day	£263
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Non-league News

Gong time for Town

ALRESFORD Town have been named Sydenhams Wessex Premier club-of-the-month for February.

With waterlogged pitches causing havoc with fixtures, the Magpies played only three games during the month.

But they boasted an impeccable record, kicking off with a 3-0 win over Winchester City before thrashing Christchurch 7-1 and Blackfield & Langley 5-1.

League leaders Andover Town picked up the Division One award. They beat Amesbury Town, Hayling United and Pewsey Vale, scoring 13 in the process and conceding just once.

On the road with Sho

SHOLING are organising a supporters' coach for the second leg of their FA Vase semi-final away to Eastbourne United on Saturday, April 5.

Seats will be £15. Supporters should contact *secretary.sholingfc@gmial.com*.

Brock job available

SYDENHAMS Premier Division outfit Brockenhurst are looking to appoint a commercial manager.

Ideally the Badgers would like someone with previous experience for the commission-paid post.

For more details please contact chairman Pete Lynes on 07908 109696.

Dolphins v Hammers

POOLE Town will face Graham Kemp's Hamworthy United in the Dorset Senior Cup final on Tuesday, April 8, 7.45 (venue to be confirmed).

Poole's Calor Southern Premier match at home to Chesham United is now switched to Thursday, April 17.

Easter soccer school

GOSPORT Borough are running a soccer school for boys and girls, aged 7-16, over the Easter holidays (April 16/17, 10am-3pm).

The youngsters will be coached footballing skills and take part in a variety of activities, mini-tournaments and challenges – including testing themselves with a goalkeeping masterclass against first-team 'keeper Nathan Ashmore.

The cost is £15 per session or £20 for both days. For an additional £5 there will be a breakfast club running from 8.30am.

To book or get more information, please contact Sam Pearce on 07901 969795 or email *sampearce.gbfc@hotmail.com*.

Youth Football

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE FIND

BARTON PEVERIL: Beaten 2-0 by South Downs in the Hampshire Colleges Second XI final at Test Park. Goals by Matt Eaton and Lewis Crook earned South Downs their first taste of silverware.

BROCKENHURST: Beaten 2-0 by Farnborough in the Hampshire Colleges Third XI Cup final at Test Park.

SPARSHOLT are celebrating a second significant colleges triumph in six days after beating Brockenhurst 2-1 to win the Peter Munro Cup for the first time.

Their success followed the previous week's 3-2 victory in the English Schools FA Under-18 Colleges Trophy when they beat Wigan's John Rigby College in Coventry's Ricoh Arena, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY***.

It was Sparsholt's first piece of domestic silverware since they merged with Andover College seven years ago.

Man-of-the-match Tommy Wright put Sparsholt ahead, Dillon Knight equalised and then Urli Cupi's second-half strike won it for the Winchester team.

Itchen had beaten them in two previous cup finals but, having knocked the perennial Colleges League champions out in the semi-finals, Sparsholt were firm favourites to make it third time lucky.

They deserved to win, no question about that – but credit Brockenhurst, who gave a good account of themselves and were in the game for two-thirds of it.

Rival team selections caused a touchline comment or two – and plenty afterwards!

Sparsholt's team, albeit mainly first year students, was essentially the side that turns out regularly in the Football Conference Youth Alliance South West Division and had beaten Salisbury 5-0 48 hours previously.

Brockenhurst, who play under Bashley's name in that same youth competition, had a league match against Oxford City on Wednesday, so fielded their second team in the Peter Munro Cup final.

Brock-cum-Bashley beat Oxford 2-1 with goals from Jack Hoey and Jamie Betteridge

It looked as though they might reach the end of a scrappy and rather undistinguished opening half on level terms – but then Wright produced a moment of magic.

The one-time Southampton Schools under-15 striker from Upper Shirley High floated a 35-yard free-kick over the head of Brock keeper Jack Nicholson, who was caught out of position.

Tommy wasn't born then but seasoned spectators sitting in the Solent University stand quickly reflected back to 1995 and the shot Nayim deceived Arsenal's David Seaman with to win the European Cup Winners Cup for Real Zaragoza.

Wright's goal, which gave Sparsholt a 1-0 interval advantage, cushioned an earlier blow when Ed Chappe limped out of the game with a knee injury.

Wright, who really did look a cut above everyone else on view,

Burgess closing in on dream pro contract

TALENTED teenage footballer Jake Burgess is on the verge of signing a professional contract with League One club Leyton Orient after being selected to train with their first team squad.

The 16-year-old, from Whiteparish, impressed Orient manager Russell Slade during the Final of Samsung's nationwide Win A Pro Contract competition, which attracted a record breaking 5,700 entries.

The 22 finalists played at Orient's Matchroom Stadium on March 2 in front of Slade, Wycombe Wanderers boss Gareth Ainsworth and Swindon Town's Mark Cooper, who then made two selections each.

"When I was told I had made it through to Orient's boot-camp, I couldn't believe it; I didn't know what to say," said Jake.

"After waiting five days for the outcome I thought it was going to be a no, so I was so relieved and excited."

Slade will now assess Jake, and one other selected player, when he joins his first team squad for a few days of intense bootcamp training.

Afterwards, one player will be awarded a one-year professional contract.

Jake reached the final after making it through a series of trials and a semi-final match.

EMAIL TEAM PICTURES TO *echosport@dailyecho.co.uk*

Youth Football

WRIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

MAIN PICTURE: Sparsholt skipper Chris Williams lifts the Peter Munro Cup. Order no: 18169987

INSET: Sparsholt scorers Tommy Wright, left, and Erli Cupi. Order no: 18170001

Daily Echo pictures by Chris Moorhouse

FOOT RACE: Action from Sparsholt v Brockenhurst. Order no: 18169999

SHOOTING STAR: Sparsholt's Tommy Wright, left, gets a shot in. Order no: 18169985

almost scored again soon after half-time.

But instead looked on as Elliott Dillon scored a quality goal of his own to put Brock level.

Jessie Gould, who caught the eye for the New Forest students, engineered the move which set up the equaliser – but Dillon had plenty more work of his own to do before he crisply chipped his shot out of reach of goalkeeper Marcus Chilos.

Brockenhurst upped the tempo and had a decent spell before they were forced to change goalkeepers.

Nicholson injured his ribs when he dived at the feet of Wright and, after a lengthy stoppage, was replaced by substitute George Wheeler.

Ironically, Wheeler's first task was to pick the ball out of the net as Sparsholt broke downfield from a Brock corner and Tom Pattison set up Albanian-raised Erli Cupi for what proved a well taken winner.

If he needed any redemption Wheeler got it soon after – with a superb penalty save.

Substitute Joshua Bertie was pushed in the back, but Wheeler flung himself to his left to save the spot kick from Callum Cunliffe-Pilley.

Sparsholt could and should have scored more goals before the final whistle as Brock pushed forward in a vain attempt to take the final into extra-time.

Wheeler made one more fine save and several other chances went begging before Sparsholt held aloft the Peter Munro Cup at the third time of asking.

HOW THEY STAND

Football Conference Youth Alliance South West Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford City	15	12	0	3	49	13	36
Bashley	12	11	1	0	47	15	34
Southampton (Bath)	15	10	1	4	37	18	31
JMA Reading	14	7	1	6	31	19	22
Southampton (Sparsholt)	12	6	3	3	35	16	21
Eastleigh	11	6	1	4	19	18	19
Weston Super Mare	13	4	3	6	21	33	15
Oxford United	12	4	0	8	23	41	12
Basingstoke Town	16	2	2	12	18	45	8
Gosport Borough	12	1	4	7	11	38	7
Salisbury City	12	1	0	11	4	39	3

Non-league News

Hawks impress Bristow

TODAY'S Skrill Conference South clash between Basingstoke Town and Havant & Waterlooville was a dress rehearsal for the final of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

The divisional rivals will meet in the county showpiece at Fratton Park on Monday, May 12.

Basingstoke boss Jason Bristow is a big admirer of Havant's, admitting: "They have some fantastic individuals and are doing well collectively as well.

"They reached the semi-finals of the FA Trophy, which shows how good they are, and will be keen to push on and make up the ground on the (Conference South) top-five with all their games in hand."

Bristow, pictured below, also speaks glowingly of Paul Doswell's Sutton United, who outclassed Basingstoke 4-0 at Gander Green Lane last Saturday.

Spurred on by a bumper 2,000-plus free admission crowd, Sutton took the lead through ex-Eastleigh man Damian Scannell before Gavin McCallum weighed in with a brace.

The dismissal of another ex-Spitfire, Dale Binns, saw the hosts reduced to ten, but still the classy Us had another goal in them as Dean Sinclair headed in McCallum's cross.

"With so many injuries, players have had to play a lot more than if we had a fully-fit squad to rotate around and we looked very tired and lacked the energy and tempo our play needs," said Bristow.

"But that is to take nothing away from Sutton as I believe they looked the best side we have faced this season."

A disappointing week continued for Basingstoke on Tuesday when they were held 0-0 by struggling Tonbridge Angels at the Camrose – and had a man sent off into the bargain.

Wes Daly got his second-half marching orders after picking up a second yellow card.

The result left Town 12th in the table, eight points outside the play-off zone with 11 games to go.

SUNDAY FOOTBALL ROUND-UP – SEE PAGE 43

Non-league Football

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Brown in the pink

LEAH Brown netted five times as Southampton Saints romped to a 6-1 victory over Petersfield.

Four of the goals came in the first half, including a third minute opener.

Brown headed in a Alisha Buckingham cross to double Saints' lead before her third and fourth goals arrived within the first 25 minutes.

Sub Leah Lacey added a fifth before half-time and Brown completed the scoring from a Maisie Steggles corner.

Saints' player of the match was Sarah Williams.

Flames doused

SAINTS came from 2-0 down against Mudeford Phoenix Flames to progress in the Hampshire U14 Cup thanks to a super sub display from Libby O'Dell.

Mudeford punished the Saints defence at the start of both halves with two good finishes.

O'Dell turned the tie on its head, though, by scoring three goals in 15 minutes, including a very confident penalty finish.

Player of the match went to Frankie Tyrrell for a faultless game at the back.

Amazing Grace

GRACE Griffiths produced an excellent finish to put Saints' under-11s ahead in the fourth minute against Portsmouth University Devils.

On eight minutes, a throw-in found Larissa White in the box who tucked it away.

Another throw in from deep within Pompey's half set the third goal up, again for White, on 25 minutes.

The final goal got the biggest cheer from the crowd. Set up by Grace Griffiths, it was Holly Jerrim who scored.

Player of the match went to Katelyn Wort for her usual energetic display at centre midfield.

Sher joy for Riley

THE sight of Nathaniel Sherborne netting AFC Totton's opener in Tuesday's 2-1 win over Burnham warmed the cockles of manager Steve Riley's heart.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

After sitting out the best part of two seasons injured, Sherborne has been gradually reacquainting himself with first-team action over the past few weeks.

He made a long overdue return to the scoresheet at Bashley earlier in the month, although there was some doubt that night if it had in fact been an own goal.

But there was no denying the crowd favourite his moment of glory on Tuesday as he hared onto Zac Mouland's pass, leaving his marker in his wake, and slotted calmly into the far corner.

Myles Hippolyte levelled from the spot after a foul by Lewis Ross, but the Stags hit back with an 85th-minute James Jennings winner – the substitute firing a free-kick under the wall and into the bottom corner after Taylor Edwards had been brought down.

"The opening goal was great to see," admitted Riley. "Luke Roberts and Zac Mouland combined down the left and Zac's slipped the ball in behind for Sherbs to run on to.

"Sherbs looked really good as he beat the centre-half in a foot race and coolly finished.

"It was great to see him do that after all he's been through with injury.

"He raced over to the bench and hugged me and Fezza (assistant manager Chris Ferrett).

"For Sherbs to be getting involved again and competing is fantastic for everyone. Lads like Taylor and Zac are learning their trade playing alongside him."

> **"In the last seven games we've competed like an established team in this league**

After two unlucky defeats on the spin at Poole Town and Frome, victory was no more than Totton's young relegation-battlers deserved.

"We actually played a lot better at Poole than we did against Burnham, but that's the way it goes sometimes," said Riley.

"It was quite an open game in the first half and Steve Mowthorpe has made two top-drawer saves to keep us in it.

"We went in one up at half-time and talked about decision-making. But within 39 seconds of the second-half starting, we'd made four bad decisions and ended up giving a penalty away, which left me scratching my head!

"But after that Steve (Mowthorpe) didn't really have a save to make and in the last 20 minutes our fitness levels came into their own, which was really positive.

"I brought on three subs (Edwards, Jennings and Nathan Hurst) to give us an injection of pace and we needed that spark.

"We had a goal disallowed when Sherbs was flagged offside, but we kept believing and Taylor did really well to earn us a free-kick which James smashed into the bottom corner.

"That's 13 points out of the last 21 for us now. In the last seven games we've competed like an established team in this league.

"It's probably come too late to keep us up, but we'll keep trying to win as many points as we can."

COMEBACK: Nathaniel Sherborne.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, March 24
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 2: Southend v Oxford Utd.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: FC Halifax v Alfreton Town.
BARCLAYS U21 PREMIER LEAGUE
SAINTS U21 v Norwich U21 (2.30pm).
South: Havant & Waterlooville v Bath City.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division One South & West: Clevedon v Bishops Cleeve.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup, semi-final: Sholing v Team Solent.
Wyvern Shield, league phase: C. Fawley AFC v Folland Sports, D. Petersfield Town v East Cowes Vics.

Tuesday, March 25
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Arsenal v Swansea, Man Utd v Man City, Newcastle v Everton.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Bolton v Blackpool, Bournemouth v Leeds, Burnley v Doncaster, Huddersfield v Middlesbrough, Ipswich v Derby, Leicester v Yeovil, Millwall v Birmingham, Nottm Forest v Charlton, QPR v Wigan, Reading v Barnsley, Sheff Wed v Brighton, Watford v Blackburn.
League 1: Bradford v Walsall, Bristol City v Port Vale, Carlisle v Shrewsbury, Crawley Town v Sheff Utd, Crewe v Notts County, Leyton Orient v Oldham, Milton Keynes Dons v Gillingham, Preston v Peterborough, Rotherham v Brentford, Tranmere v Swindon, Wolverhampton v Colchester.
League 2: Burton Albion v Wycombe, Cheltenham v Scunthorpe, Chesterfield v Morecambe, Dag & Red v Accrington Stanley, Fleetwood Town v Bristol Rovers, Hartlepool v Mansfield, Newport County v Bury, Northampton v AFC Wimbledon, Plymouth v Exeter, Rochdale v Portsmouth, York v Torquay.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Aldershot v Gateshead, Chester FC v Tamworth, Grimsby v Luton, Welling v Braintree Town.
South: Basingstoke v Concord, Bishop's Stortford v Whitehawk, Dover v Farnborough, Eastleigh v Dorchester, Maidenhead v Eastbourne Borough, Staines v Bromley, Tonbridge Angels v Gosport Borough.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bashley v Hungerford, Biggleswade v Poole Town, Hemel Hempstead v Stourbridge, Weymouth v Burnham.
Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Shortwood, Cinderford v Paulton, Cirencester v Tiverton, Godalming v Fleet Town, North Leigh v Mangotsfield, Stratford v Thatcham, Swindon Supermarine v Evesham, Taunton v Guildford, Wimborne v Yate.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Brockenhurst, Alresford v Fawley AFC, Bournemouth Poppies v Sholing, Folland Sports v Fareham, Hamworthy v Verwood, Newport IoW v Blackfield & Langley, Totton & Eling v Christchurch, Whitchurch v Moneyfields.
Division One: East Cowes v Petersfield, Hythe & Dibden v Hayling Utd, Laverstock & Ford v Cowes Sports, Pewsey Vale v US Portsmouth.
PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
PEHPL Cup, semi-final: Baffins Milton Rovers v Overton Utd (at Liss Athletic FC, 7.30)
Premier Division: Locks Heath v QK Southampton.

Wednesday, March 26
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Liverpool v Sunderland, West Ham v Hull.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Coventry v Stevenage.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Salisbury v Cambridge Utd
UEFA EUROPEAN UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP
Elite Round Group 4: England U17 v Czech Rep U17.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Corby v AFC Totton, Frome v St Neots.
PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
Premier Division: AFC Aldermaston v Otterbourne, Liss Athletic v Headley Utd.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Division One East: Alton Town v Tadley Calleva, Locks Heath v Horndean, Petersfield v Newport IoW.
Division One West: Christchurch v Verwood, Fawley AFC v Ringwood, Laverstock & Ford v Romsey.

Thursday, March 27
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Braintree Town v Nuneaton, Southport v Forest Green.
South: Bishop's Stortford v Weston-super-Mare, Gosport Borough v Ebbsfleet, Havant & Waterlooville v Whitehawk.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Redditch v Poole Town.
Division One South & West: Taunton v Cirencester, Tiverton v Swindon Supermarine.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fareham v Brockenhurst, Whitchurch v Winchester City.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Semi-finals: Baffins Milton Rovers v Petersfield Town, Fleetlands v Moneyfields.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Dorchester Town.
Wyvern Shield, knockout phase, quarter-final: Sholing v AFC Portchester.

Saturday, March 29
(All FL games 3pm ko unless stated)
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Arsenal v Man City (5.30pm), Crystal Palace v Chelsea, Man Utd v Aston Villa, SAINTS v Newcastle, Stoke v Hull, Swansea v Norwich, West Brom v Cardiff.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Birmingham v Bournemouth, Bolton v Wigan, Brighton v Middlesbrough, Burnley v Leicester (12.15pm), Derby v Charlton, Ipswich v Nottm Forest, Leeds v Doncaster, Millwall v Blackburn, QPR v Blackpool, Reading v Huddersfield, Sheff Wed v Watford, Yeovil v Barnsley.
League 1: Crewe v Coventry, Leyton Orient v Bradford, Milton Keynes Dons v Wolves, Notts County v Colchester, Oldham v Brentford, Preston v Crawley Town, Rotherham v Bristol City, Stevenage v Port Vale, Swindon v Sheff Utd, Tranmere v Carlisle, Walsall v Shrewsbury.
League 2: Bristol Rovers v Morecambe, Dag & Red v Oxford Utd, Exeter v Accrington Stanley, Fleetwood Town v Rochdale, Hartlepool v Cheltenham, Mansfield v AFC Wimbledon, Newport County v Portsmouth, Northampton v Bury, Scunthorpe v Wycombe, Southend v Torquay, York v Burton Albion.
BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE
Wolverhampton U18 v SAINTS U18 (11am).
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier: Aldershot v Hyde, Alfreton Town v Nuneaton, Cambridge Utd v Barnet, Dartford v Macclesfield, FC Halifax v Luton, Gateshead v Braintree Town, Hereford v Grimsby, Salisbury v Kidderminster, Tamworth v Lincoln City, Welling v Chester FC, Woking v Wrexham.
South: Basingstoke v Dorchester, Chelmsford v Havant & Waterlooville, Dover v Boreham Wood, Eastbourne Borough v Bromley, Ebbsfleet v Tonbridge Angels, Farnborough v Concord, Gosport Borough v Bishop's Stortford, Hayes & Yeading v Eastleigh (now March 30), Maidenhead v Whitehawk, Sutton v Bath City, Weston-super-Mare v Staines.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey v AFC Totton, Banbury v Bashley, Cambridge City v Truro, Chippenham v Biggleswade, Corby v Hungerford, Frome v Stourbridge, Poole Town v Bedford, Redditch v Chesham, St Albans v Burnham, St Neots v Bideford, Weymouth v Hitchin.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Fleet, Bridgwater v Yate, Cinderford v Guildford, Clevedon v Shortwood, Didcot v Cirencester, Godalming v Merthyr Town, Mangotsfield v Thatcham, Stratford v Taunton, Swindon Supermarine v North Leigh, Tiverton v Evesham, Wimborne v Paulton Rovers.
FA VASE
Semi-final, first leg: Sholing v Eastbourne Utd, West Auckland v St Andrews.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford v Horndean, Bournemouth Poppies v Folland Sports, Brockenhurst v Newport IoW, Christchurch v Bemerton HH, Lymington Town v Blackfield & Langley, Moneyfields v Fawley AFC, Romsey v Downton, Verwood v Fareham, Whitchurch v Totton & Eling, Winchester City v Hamworthy.
Division One: Amesbury v East Cowes Vics, Andover New Street v Pewsey Vale, Cowes Sports v US Portsmouth, Hayling v Ringwood, Laverstock & Ford v Hythe & Dibden, New Milton v Tadley Calleva, Petersfield v Andover Town.
PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Otterbourne, Clanfield v Winchester Castle, Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Headley Utd v Colden Common, Liphook v Paulsgrove, Liss Athletic v Bournemouth Sports, Overton v Locks Heath, QK Southampton v AFC Aldermaston.
Division One: Andover Lions v Broughton, Bush Hill v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Hamble Club v Four Marks, Infinity v Upham, Lyndhurst v Durley.
Combination: AFC Stoneham v Fleetlands, Hedge End Rangers v Liphook, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Liss, Otterbourne v Clanfield, Paulsgrove v Overton, Winchester Castle v Hamble Club.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Senior Division: AFC Portchester v Wimborne, Bemerton HH v AFC Totton.
Division One East: Alton Town v US Portsmouth, Colden Common v Tadley Calleva, Folland Sports v Alresford, Horndean v Petersfield, Newport IoW v Locks Heath.
Division One West: East Cowes Vics v Romsey Town, Fawley AFC v Lymington Town, Hythe & Dibden v Laverstock & Ford.

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Non-league Football

GLEN'S STAYING POWER WINS OUT IN SEMI-FINAL

City of Southampton Sunday League

GLEN needed extra time before booking their place in the DR Ryder Trophy final.

The City of Southampton Sunday League Junior Division 1 leaders were taken to the extra half hour by Junior Division 2 table-toppers AFC Portswood, ***writes SIMON CARTER***.

It was 1-1 after 90 minutes, with Glen running out 4-1 winners thanks to goals from Daniel Kyte, Jake Voller, Dan Sawyer and Craig Shellard.

Totton Town are through to the AJ Miller Trophy semi-finals after a 3-1 success at Linden Tree.

Following a goalless first half, Daniel Gain, Tom Rafferty and Liam Hanlon all scored with Alex Sheath replying.

KRL defeated Bridge AFC 3-2 in the only Premier Division game played in the City of Southampton League.

Matt Gray, Dan Mullins and Mike Saunders were on target, with Robert Goddard and Lee Osborne replying.

Scare

Senior Division leaders Yacht Tavern survived a scare in winning 4-1 at rock-bottom Eastbrook Harriers.

Harriers, who played most of the game with ten men and the last half hour with just nine, led at the interval through a Shane Light penalty.

But Yacht hit back with Jake Bessant hitting a hat-trick and Jamie Davies also netting.

Joe Moore was also a three-goal hero in the same division, his goals helping Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak) to a 4-2 home win against Sherfield English.

Sam Treadaway also scored for Cricketers, with Adam Quick twice replying.

FC Railway had the better of a goalfest at Sky Blues in Junior Division 1.

They triumphed 6-4 with Brad Snelling, Chris Flood, Kieran Palmer and Liam Jannaway replying for the hosts.

RS Ocean Village celebrated their 100th game with a 1-0 home win over LH Galaxy in Junior Division 2.

Ben Dawkins scored the only goal, but Village's Dan Sanders saw a penalty well saved.

A Danny Rumsey hat-trick helped Athletico Tin Hut defeat visiting Fleming Sports 3-0.

Junior Division 3 leaders Landguard were beaten 3-2 at Boyatt Wood Wanderers with all the goals coming in the first 36 minutes.

Boyatt stormed into a 3-0 lead after 27 minutes through goals from Jason Palmer (2) and Warren Applegate.

Landguard hit back with strikes from Jay Dillon and Nick Skolsky on 30 and 36 minutes.

Chartwell Green Reserves are up to second after goals from Mike Fielden and Gary Klepp gave them a 2-0 home success against Royale Marine.

Lewis Alleyne gave AFC Bishopstoke a half-time lead at King George, with Nathan Rose levelling.

Sam Martin and Sam Bessant both scored twice as Titans hammered AFC Velmore 6-0. Jamie Keyte and Nick Chalk also netted.

Itchen Saints stretched their lead to six points in Junior Division 4 with a 3-1 success at Durley.

Lewis Fear, Coby Wilson and Jamie Martin scored, with Matthew Darling having sent Durley in level at half-time.

Carnival UK beat visiting Hedge End Rangers 3-1 with Danny Jones, Darrin Carey and Luke Bowers on target. Matt Hawkes had put Hedge level at half-time.

Goals from Steve Deacon and Lee Fuller helped AFC Gulf Western win 3-0 at Sherfield English Reserves.

Test Valley Spartans moved to the top of Junior Division 5 with a 2-1 home victory over Burridge AFC, Jack Edgerley and Dan Grove scoring.

Ben Cox (2) and Jamie Blisset scored as Itchen Albion won 3-2 at Bannister Park.

Caning

AFC Southbrook remain eight points clear at the top of Junior Division 6 after caning AFC Bishopstoke Reserves 6-2.

Dion Bone hit a hat-trick with Mark Christopher and Jamie Brown on target. Nathan Alexander replied.

Curbridge remain second after Pete Kershaw's first half triple helped them win 4-1 at AFC Phoenix.

Keith Yeates also netted as Curbridge raced into a 4-0 interval lead, with Alastair Ingram replying.

Unity romped to an 8-1 victory at Athletico Totton with goals from Mizanur Rahman (2), Justin Jones (2), Nassar Brora (2), Hashim Alyas and Haroon Hussain.

The best individual performance in last weekend's CoSL programme came in Junior Division 7.

Matthew Bosanquet scored all five goals as Mottisfont won 5-1 at rock-bottom Testwood Tornadoes. Darren Wallace replied.

ON TARGET: Liam Hanlon, left, netted for Totton Town in their 3-1 success against Linden Tree in the semi-finals of the AJ Miller Trophy.

Allbrook enjoy Rick pickings in cup

RICHARD Luffman struck four goals as AFC Allbrook strolled into the semi-finals of the Southampton & District Sunday League Cup.

Geoff Dunn, Simon Holt, Dave Reading and Tom Sands also scored as Allbrook thrashed Foresters AFC 8-0.

That was not the only one-sided quarter final to take place last weekend.

Roll Call went to Trants and handed out a 9-1 thrashing with Ricky Bull leading the rout with a hat-trick.

Further goals came from Matt Burt (2), Matt Camfield, Ben Kneller, Dan Longman and Ricky Sibley. Tony Brown replied.

Terry Coupland struck a hat-trick as AFC Anchor thrashed Chamberlayne Athletic 15-0 in Division 2 of the Southampton & District Sunday League.

Further goals came from Jon Ellard (2), William Hunt (2), Steve Johnson (2), Danny Reilly (2), Gareth Spring (2), Neil Dennis and John Richardson.

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE STANDINGS

(do not include this weekend's games)

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
City Central	4	3	1	0	16	4	10
Totton Town	5	3	0	2	16	17	9
K.R.L.	5	3	0	2	13	16	9
Linden Tree	5	2	0	3	20	15	6
Bridge A.F.C.	7	1	2	4	13	16	5
Chamberlayne Ath	4	1	1	2	4	14	4

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yacht Tavern	6	5	1	0	26	9	16
Cricketers Arms	8	3	2	3	26	19	11
Sherfield English	7	2	3	2	27	23	9
Bush Hill & N Heath	8	3	0	5	20	34	9
Eastbrook Harriers	7	1	2	4	16	30	5

Junior Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glen	9	5	1	3	19	16	16
Obelisk	6	4	0	2	23	12	12
A.F.C. Bursledon	4	4	0	0	17	6	12
Chartwell Green	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
F.C. Railway	8	1	2	5	15	26	5
Sky Blues	5	1	1	3	12	19	4
A.F.C. Riverside	6	0	3	3	6	17	3

Junior Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Portswood	9	8	1	0	34	11	25
R.S. Ocean Village	8	5	0	3	22	15	15
Athletico Tin Hut	9	5	0	4	26	22	15
Lokomotive Eastleigh	8	3	1	4	25	15	10
L.H. Galaxy	8	3	0	5	8	10	9
Riverside Athletic	4	2	0	2	7	14	6
Fleming Sports	8	0	0	8	3	38	0

Junior Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Landguard Rovers	11	7	3	1	30	16	24
Chartwell Green R	10	5	2	3	19	16	17
Titans	9	5	1	3	19	9	16
Bridge A.F.C. Res	10	4	4	2	19	15	16
Boyatt Wood Wndrs	10	4	1	5	16	19	13
A.F.C. Velmore	11	4	1	6	28	33	13
A.F.C. Bishopstoke	12	3	4	5	16	21	13
King George	7	2	2	3	12	15	8
Royale Marine	12	1	4	7	14	29	7

Junior Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Itchen Saints	11	10	0	1	56	16	30
Roll Call	10	8	0	2	38	13	24
AFC Gulf Western	10	7	0	3	31	23	21
Carnival U.K.	11	5	0	6	31	35	15
Hedge End Rangers	8	4	1	3	19	16	13
Eastpoint	10	2	3	5	20	31	9
Durley	9	2	1	6	19	28	7
Sherfield English R	13	2	1	10	20	53	7
Shelfside	8	1	2	5	23	42	5

Junior Division Five

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Test Valley Spartans	12	7	2	3	33	22	23
A.F.C. Marchwood	10	6	2	2	25	15	20
Cherbourg	12	5	3	4	37	35	18
Burridge A.F.C.	11	3	5	3	32	22	14
Itchen Albion	10	3	2	5	18	29	11
Bannister Park	11	3	1	7	18	32	10
Portside	10	2	3	5	24	32	9

Junior Division Six

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.F.C. Southbrook	12	11	1	0	58	16	34
Curbridge	11	8	2	1	55	20	26
Sporting Compass	11	5	3	3	38	24	18
Unity	12	4	2	6	42	35	14
J.S.C.	12	4	1	7	29	38	13
A.F.C. Phoenix	13	4	1	8	27	44	13
AFC Bishopstoke R	12	3	3	6	27	46	12
Athletico Totton	13	2	1	10	24	77	7

Junior Division Seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bitterne Ducks	12	9	2	1	50	17	29
Riverside Pk Rngrs	10	8	1	1	48	8	25
Fawley R.B.L.	12	6	2	4	40	28	20
Mottisfont	11	6	1	4	45	30	19
Netley R.B.L.	11	3	1	7	21	36	10
New Bridge	12	3	1	8	24	44	10
T'wood Tornadoes	10	0	0	10	7	72	0

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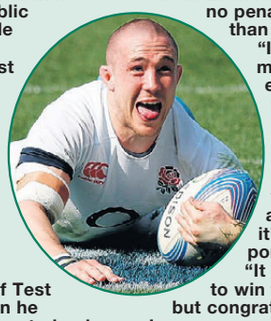
Non-league Football

Ex-Symonds ace's Six Nations award

FORMER Peter Symonds College (PSC) rugby star Mike Brown has won the 2014 RBS 6 Nations Player of the Championship award, tournament organisers have announced.

Southampton-born Brown, who was in blistering form throughout the Six Nations campaign, secured more than 34 per cent of a public vote to claim an accolade that went to Wales full-back Leigh Halfpenny last season.



Some 68,000 people took part in the vote, with Brown's share of that being just over 23,400.

Ireland centre Brian O'Driscoll finished second on 28 per cent, with his team-mate Andrew Trimble third.

O'Driscoll bowed out of Test rugby last weekend when he helped Ireland beat France to land a first Six Nations title since 2009 in the process.

A 16-man shortlist was drawn up based on match statistics and analysis across a set of criteria, before the public voted.

Ireland fly-half Jonathan Sexton, meanwhile, took fourth spot, ahead of Rob Kearney, with Scotland number eight David Denton sixth and England scrum-half Danny Care seventh.

Harlequins star Brown, pictured, scored four tries for England during the campaign, had 65 carries and beat 25 defenders, while conceding no penalties and gaining more than 540 metres.

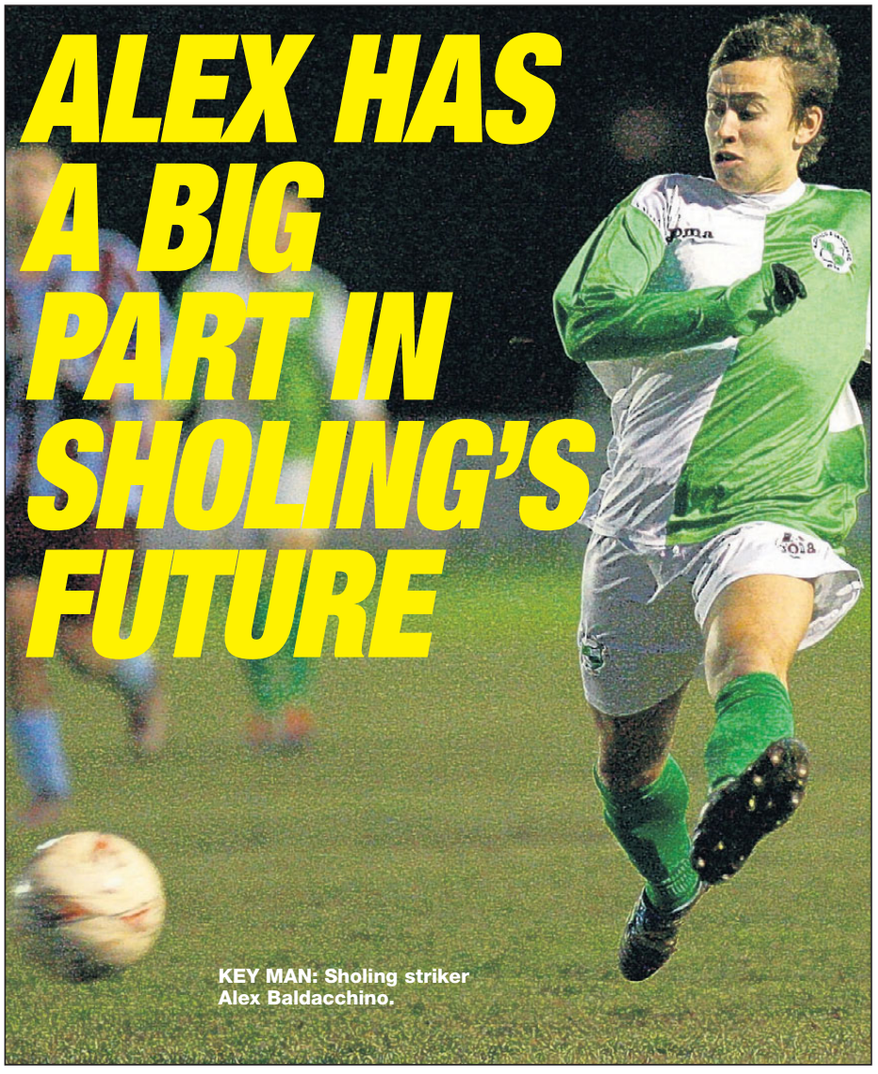
"I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who voted for me to be RBS 6 Nations Player of the Championship," Brown said.

"I am extremely grateful and proud to win this award, particularly as it's decided by the supporters.

"It was disappointing not to win the tournament overall, but congratulations to Ireland, and I am sure we will come back stronger next season.

"Finally, a big thank you to all my teammates, back-room staff, and coaches for all the help they've given me through the tournament. I couldn't perform on the field without them, and it's great to have that support."

ALEX HAS A BIG PART IN SHOLING'S FUTURE



KEY MAN: Sholing striker Alex Baldacchino.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

ALEX Baldacchino can play no part in Sholing's quest for Wembley.

But Boatmen's boss Dave Diaper reckons the elusive, little marksman – just 5ft 8in and slightly built – could still have a big say in the club's push for honours in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Like fellow new signing TJ Cuthbertson, Baldacchino has already played for Blackfield & Langley this season in the FA Vase, ruling him out of next Saturday's big semi-final first leg against Eastbourne United at the Silverlake Arena.

The 23-year-old is still short on sharpness, having spent a fair chunk of the season sidelined through injury, but Diaper has seen enough of him already to know that, fully fit, he can pose a major threat.

"Alex has been out since November time and it takes games to get match fitness up together," he said.

"But you can see he's got good movement and he's the sort of player that tall defenders like mine – Pete Castle and Lee Bright – would hate to play against because he's so mobile.

"He gets between the lines and he's not easy to pick up.

"He looks to be a good acquisition."

With the lethal partnership of Lee Wort and Ashley Jarvis on course to bang in 80-100 goals between them this season, Diaper believes it's Sholing's strike threat that sets them apart from their rivals.

Wort, 22, won the Southern One South & West golden boot award with 35 goals last season, having finished runner-up to Gosport's Justin Bennett with 25 in 2011/12.

Jarvis and Baldacchino, meanwhile, have regularly featured in the upper reaches of the Sydenhams Wessex scoring charts.

Jarvis was one half of a prolific 'Batman and Robin' double act at Folland Sports alongside Jamie Musselwhite.

Meanwhile, Portsmouth-based ex-Havant & Waterlooville youngster Baldacchino hit 30-plus in successive seasons with New Milton Town and reigning Sydenhams Premier champions Blackfield & Langley.

"I've said that all the while we've got Worty on the pitch, we're in with a chance of scoring and the same goes for Ash and Alex," he said. "With players like them on the field we're capable of scoring any time between the first and 93rd minutes.

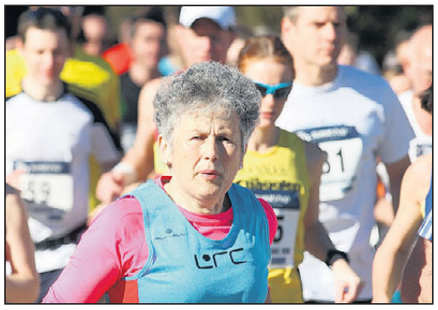
"We're always a threat going forward and can score from other positions too, but it's important to have game-changers who take their chances."

It was the versatile Barry Mason who emerged as Sholing's match-winner at Verwood Town on Tuesday – his sixth-minute strike proving the difference between the sides in the Boatmen's 1-0 win.

"It was a little bit of a false 1-0," said Diaper afterwards.

"Worty struck the bar with a penalty given for a foul on Alex Baldacchino and Barry Mason's also hit the woodwork from 25 yards."

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT: EXBURY 5-MILE RACE



Order no: 18148779

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ON THE LINE: The start of the fun run.

Daily Echo pictures by Stuart Martin Order no: 18148496

ME AND MY SHADOW ... Exbury 5 runners enjoy the sunny conditions.

Order no: 18148600

LEADING MEN: Race winner James Dean, left, heads the leading group.

Order no: 18148414

IN FULL SWING: Fun run competitors.

Order no: 18148515

Order no: 18148470

TOTTON RC's James Dean won the annual race at Exbury Gardens.

Normally a 10k, the course was reduced to five miles because the recent storms had washed away the path along the Lepe foreshore.

Nearly 300 runners still enjoyed running through picturesque surroundings along country lanes.

A flat, fast and circular course, which began and ended at Exbury Gardens, helped several runners to fast times in the spring sunshine.

Dean won the race in a time of 28:11, a minute faster than his nearest rival, Adam Jundi.

Runners also took part in a 2km fun run.

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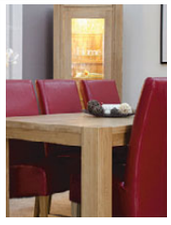

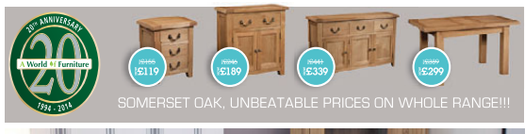

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Mutch 9,88; Campbell 25 — Suarez 16,60,90; Skrtel 41,54; Sturridge 75
HT 2-2 Att 28,018

Chelsea 6 **Arsenal** 0
Eto o 5; Schurrle 7; Hazard 17 pen; Oscar 42,66; Salah 71
HT 4-0 Att 41,614

Everton 3 **Swansea** 2
Baines 20 pen; Lukaku 53; Barkley 58 — Bony 33; Williams 90
HT 1-1 Att 36,260

Hull 2 **W.B.A.** 0
Rosenior 32; Long 38
HT 2-0 Att 23,486

Man City 5 **Fulham** 0
Toure 26 pen,54 pen,65; Fernandinho 84; Demichelis 88
HT 1-0 Att 47,262

Newcastle 1 **Crystal P** 0
Cisse 90
HT 0-0 Att 51,588

Norwich 2 **Sunderlnd** 0
Snodgrass 20; Tettey 32
HT 2-0 Att 26,654

West Ham L **Man Utd** L
HT L-L

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	31	14	2	0	39	9	7	4	4	23	14	69
Liverpool	30	12	1	1	42	12	8	4	4	40	26	65
Man City	28	13	0	1	48	9	7	3	4	28	18	63
Arsenal	30	10	3	1	26	7	9	2	5	27	27	62
Everton	29	11	3	1	29	13	4	6	4	14	17	54
Spurs	30	7	3	5	16	19	9	2	4	21	19	53
Man Utd	29	6	3	5	18	15	8	3	4	28	19	48
Newcastle	30	7	3	5	19	19	7	1	7	19	21	46
SAINTS	**30**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**25**	**21**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**18**	**16**	**45**
A. Villa	29	5	2	8	17	22	4	5	5	15	16	34
Stoke	30	7	6	2	21	15	1	4	10	11	29	34
Norwich	31	6	6	4	15	12	2	2	11	11	36	32
West Ham	29	5	3	6	20	20	3	4	8	12	18	31
Hull	30	5	5	6	17	16	3	2	9	13	21	31
Swansea	30	4	5	6	26	23	3	3	9	14	23	29
W.B.A.	30	3	7	5	16	19	2	7	6	17	24	29
Crystal P	30	6	2	7	13	18	2	2	11	6	21	28
Sunderlnd	28	3	3	8	13	21	3	4	7	13	23	25
Cardiff	31	5	4	7	18	29	1	3	11	8	29	25
Fulham	31	4	1	10	18	31	3	2	11	12	39	24

SkyBet Championship

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	36	14	3	1	40	16	11	3	4	29	18	81
Burnley	37	12	6	0	32	11	9	7	3	30	20	76
Derby Cty	37	10	4	5	34	21	9	5	4	31	22	66
Q.P.R.	37	12	4	2	28	13	7	5	7	18	19	66
Wigan	36	10	6	2	29	18	8	2	8	21	17	62
Reading	37	7	7	4	31	18	9	4	6	27	24	59
Nottm For	37	9	6	3	32	21	5	9	5	23	25	57
Brighton	36	8	6	5	25	18	7	5	5	14	12	56
Ipswich	37	9	4	5	26	18	5	8	6	22	24	54
Blackburn	36	8	5	5	23	15	5	6	7	21	30	50
CHERRIES	**37**	**7**	**5**	**6**	**25**	**19**	**6**	**5**	**8**	**20**	**33**	**49**
Watford	36	9	3	6	28	16	3	9	6	25	27	48
Leeds Utd	36	8	4	6	31	25	5	4	9	19	27	47
Middlesbro	37	7	9	3	27	16	3	6	9	18	25	45
Sheff Wed	37	8	3	7	31	20	3	9	7	15	23	45
Huddersfld	37	8	4	6	31	24	4	4	11	16	27	44
Bolton	37	4	9	5	24	19	5	5	9	24	35	41
Blackpool	37	7	6	6	18	18	3	5	10	14	34	41
Doncaster	37	9	4	6	24	22	1	6	11	9	32	40
Birminghm	37	2	8	9	24	28	7	2	9	20	25	37
Charlton	34	5	5	7	13	19	2	6	9	12	25	32
Millwall	37	5	6	7	19	26	2	5	12	14	38	32
Yeovil	37	4	5	10	15	21	3	5	10	20	36	31
Barnsley	36	5	7	7	20	31	1	4	12	11	32	29

Barnsley 0 **CHERRIES** 1
Cook 90
HT 0-0 Att 9,392

Birminghm 1 **Reading** 2
Caddis 43 pen — McAnuff 40,82
HT 1-1 Att 13,409

Blackburn 1 **Leicester** 1
Kilgallon 43 — Vardy 20
HT 1-1 Att 16,528

Blackpool 1 **Huddersfld** 0
Fuller 4
HT 1-0 Att 14,624

Brighton 0 **Ipswich** 2
Smith 60, Murphy 80
HT 0-0 Att 29,093

Charlton 0 **Burnley** 3
Barnes 38; Vokes 55 pen; Kightly 90
HT 0-1

Derby Cty 5 **Nottm For** 0
Bryson 6,32,69 pen; Hendrick 37; Russell 54
HT 3-0 Att 33,004

Doncaster 1 **Sheff Wed** 0
Brown 32
HT 1-0 Att 12,609

Leeds Utd 2 **Millwall** 1
Smith 19; McCormack 41 — Campbell 73
HT 2-0 Att 23,211

Middlesbro 1 **Q.P.R.** 3
Friend 18 — Benayoun 45, Zamora 90; Morrison 90
HT 1-1 Att 15,075

Wigan 2 **Watford** 1
Beausejour 40; Waghorn 57 — McGugan 36
HT 1-1 Att 14,556

Yeovil 2 **Bolton** 2
Miller 33; Dawson 42 — Jutkiewicz 53; Knight 83
HT 2-0 Att 6,344

SkyBet League One

Brentford 3 **Coventry** 1
Donaldson 17, Trotta 20; McCormack 48 — Wilson 7
HT 2-1 Att 8,572

Colchester 2 **Bristol C** 2
Massey 73; Sears 79 — Paterson 8; Wagstaff 49
HT 0-1 Att 3,805

Gillingham 1 **Crewe** 3
Linganzi 30 — Aneke 5,53; Pogba 83
HT 1-1 Att 5,767

Notts Cnty 4 **Carlisle** 1
Hollis 33,47; Murray 40; Liddle 70 — Berrett 57
HT 2-0 Att 4,014

Oldham 1 **Crawley** 0
Philliskirk 18
HT 1-0 Att 3,389

Peterboro 0 **Rotherham** 1
Agard 45 pen
HT 0-1 Att 6,625

Port Vale 3 **Tranmere** 2
Pope 3, Knott 47; Williamson 56 — Taylor 80; Koumas 60
HT 1-0 Att 5,449

Sheff Utd 0 **Wolves** 2
Henry 13, Edwards 53
HT 0-1 Att 21,659

Shrewsbry 2 **Bradford** 1
Taylor 80; Miller 90 — Davies 79
HT 0-0 Att 5,181

Stevenage 2 **M K Dons** 3
Parrett 18; Akins 35 pen — Spence 81, Reeves 85; Lewington 90
HT 2-0 Att 3,027

Swindon 1 **Preston** 0
M Smith 56 pen
HT 0-0 Att 7,570

Walsall 1 **Leyton O** 1
Downing 14 — Clarke 78
HT 1-0 Att 5,779

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wolves	37	13	4	2	33	9	11	4	3	34	14	80
Brentford	36	15	1	3	37	16	9	6	2	25	16	79
Leyton O	38	11	2	5	34	17	11	7	2	37	18	75
Rotherham	37	7	8	3	36	27	12	4	3	32	17	69
Preston	38	7	9	2	26	21	11	6	3	26	16	69
Peterboro	37	10	2	6	25	20	8	2	9	33	29	58
M K Dons	38	8	4	6	26	21	8	3	9	30	31	55
Swindon	38	11	3	5	35	24	3	6	10	19	27	51
Walsall	38	6	6	7	19	25	6	8	5	23	16	50
Port Vale	37	10	3	6	30	27	5	2	11	21	32	50
Sheff Utd	36	9	5	4	26	16	4	4	10	11	24	48
Crawley	34	8	5	4	18	17	3	8	6	20	24	46
Bradford	37	6	9	4	30	21	4	6	8	19	25	45
Gillingham	38	9	4	7	29	26	4	2	12	21	37	45
Bristol C	38	5	8	6	26	26	4	8	7	30	35	43
Colchester	37	7	5	8	24	25	3	8	6	18	22	43
Coventry	37	8	6	4	37	34	6	4	9	30	34	42
Oldham	38	7	4	8	21	26	4	5	10	21	28	42
Crewe	38	6	6	6	22	26	4	4	12	23	44	40
Tranmere	37	5	6	7	26	34	5	3	11	20	33	39
Carlisle	37	7	4	8	25	30	3	4	11	14	31	38
Shrewsbry	38	5	7	8	18	21	3	6	9	18	28	37
Stevenage	37	6	3	9	22	25	4	4	11	17	33	37
Notts Cnty	38	8	2	9	31	26	2	2	15	18	42	34

SkyBet League Two

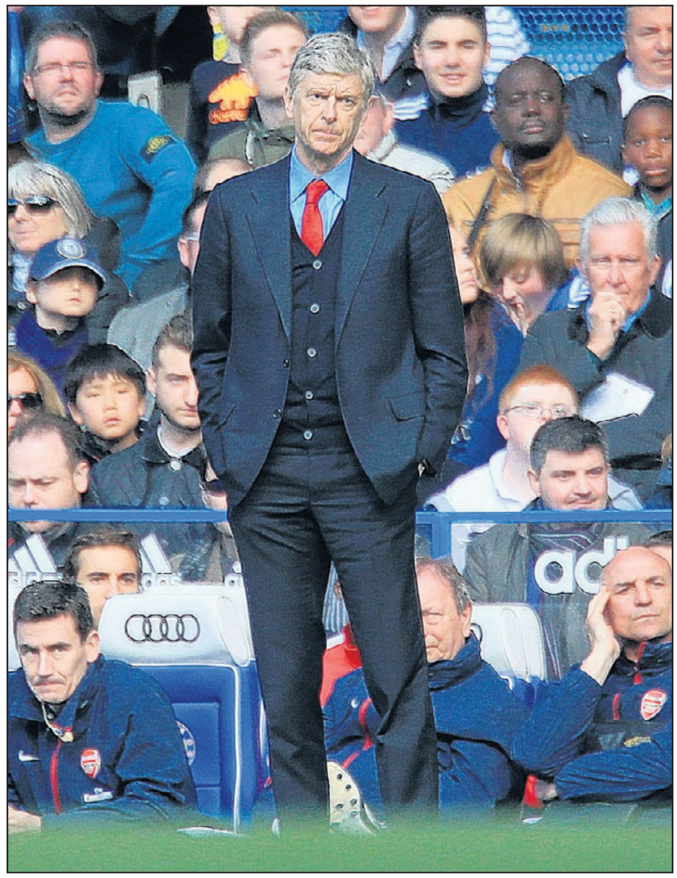
AFC Wimbledon 4 **Cheltnham** 3
Hylton 69,71; Nicholson 70; Midson 90 — T Brown 5; McGlashan 49; Taylor 74
HT 0-1 Att 3,670

Acc Stanley 1 **Plymouth** 1
Aldred 81 — Reid 32
HT 0-1

Bury 1 **Dagenham** 1
Hussey 60 — Norris 67
HT 0-0 Att 2,705

Exeter 3 **Fleetwood Town** 0
Parkin 25 og; Richards 62,65
HT 1-0 Att 2,978

Mansfield 0 **Chesterfld** 0
HT 0-0 Att 5,931



MILESTONE: Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger looks on in dismay as his 1,000th game in charge of the Gunners ends in a 6-0 defeat at Chelsea.

Morecambe 1 **Northmptn** 1
Amond 75 — Wright 45 og
HT 0-1 Att 1,761

POMPEY 0 **York** 1
Coulson 5
HT 0-1 Att 14,814

Scunthorpe 1 **Burton Albion** 0
Madden 60
HT 0-0 Att 4,029

Torquay 0 **Newport County** 1
Zebroski 8
HT 0-1 Att 2,874

Wycombe 0 **Rochdale** 2
Allen 52; Vincenti 75
HT 0-0 Att 3,594

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rochdale	38	13	2	4	37	19	8	5	6	24	20	70
Scunthorpe	38	9	8	2	27	15	8	9	2	32	22	68
Chesterfld	39	10	7	2	31	13	8	6	6	30	23	67
Fleetwood T	38	9	3	6	34	26	9	4	7	20	19	61
Burton Alb	38	8	6	5	22	20	8	7	4	19	17	61
Oxford Utd	38	8	6	6	23	18	7	8	3	26	19	59
York	38	7	7	4	19	14	7	6	7	26	24	55
Plymouth	38	8	6	5	20	19	7	4	8	23	23	55
Southend	38	7	7	4	23	15	6	7	7	21	21	53
Dagenham	38	7	6	5	23	17	5	8	7	24	30	50
Hartlepool	38	9	3	6	25	17	4	7	9	19	24	49
Newport Co	37	8	4	5	30	21	4	8	8	16	28	48
Cheltnham	38	5	9	5	25	26	6	6	7	20	25	48
Morecambe	38	7	8	5	29	24	5	4	9	16	32	48
Wimbledon	38	8	5	7	25	24	4	6	8	15	21	47
Acc Stanley	38	5	9	6	29	25	6	3	9	17	24	45
Exeter	38	5	5	9	18	23	6	6	7	27	26	44
Mansfield	38	5	6	8	22	27	5	8	6	15	23	44
Bury	37	5	11	3	21	18	4	5	9	21	25	43
Bristol R	37	9	6	4	25	16	1	7	10	9	24	43
Wycombe	38	5	5	10	16	24	5	7	6	23	23	42
POMPEY	**38**	**7**	**5**	**8**	**19**	**20**	**2**	**10**	**6**	**19**	**32**	**42**
Northmptn	38	5	6	7	18	25	4	6	10	13	24	39
Torquay	38	4	8	8	18	26	5	1	12	17	30	36

Scottish Premiership

Aberdeen 2 **Kilmarnock** 1
Celtic 3 **St Mirren** 0
Inverness CT 1 **Partick** 0
Motherwell 2 **Ross Cnty** 1
St Johnstn 2 **Hibernian** 0

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	30	13	2	0	35	6	13	1	1	39	8	81
Aberdeen	29	10	1	4	18	10	8	2	4	24	17	57
Motherwell	30	11	1	3	31	22	7	2	6	19	22	57
Dundee Utd	30	9	2	4	32	16	5	6	4	22	20	50
Invernss CT	29	7	3	4	20	11	7	3	5	14	17	48
St Johnstn	30	9	2	5	29	12	3	3	8	8	20	41
Hibernian	31	4	6	6	18	23	4	4	7	11	17	34
Kilmarnock	31	6	3	7	22	26	2	3	10	16	28	30
Partick	30	2	7	6	15	24	4	4	7	17	23	29
Ross Cnty	30	6	1	8	20	25	2	4	9	15	27	29
St Mirren	30	4	6	4	16	16	3	0	13	13	34	27
Hearts	30	3	2	9	9	24	2	4	10	17	32	6

Scottish Championship

Alloa 3 **Falkirk** 0
Dumbarton 0 **Dundee** 1
Morton 3 **Hamilton** 4
Queen Sth 2 **Cowdenbth** 1
Raith 2 **Livingston** 4

Scottish League One

Airdrieonians 5 **Forfar** 1
Ayr Utd 2 **Arbroath** 1
Dunfrmline 1 **East Fife** 2
Stranraer 1 **Stenhsmuir** 1

Scottish League Two

Albion R 5 **Elgin** 2
Annan Athletic 2 **Peterhead** 1
Berwick 3 **Clyde** 0
E Stirling 1 **Queen Park** 4
Stirling A 2 **Montrose** 2

The Skrill Premier

Barnet 2 **Hereford** 0
Braintree Town 1 **Aldershot** 0
Forest Grn 0 **Welling U** 0
Gateshead 3 **Lincoln City** 1
Hyde 0 **Dartford** 2
Kiddrmnstr 1 **Southport** 1
Luton 3 **Chester FC** 0
Macclesfld 2 **Tamworth** 1
Nuneaton 0 **Grimsby** 1
Wrexham 1 **SALISBURY** 1

Grey panels indicate High-scoring games

POOLS CHECK

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
POOLS	L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	L	L	1	1	3●	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3●	1	3●	1	1
CHECK	L	3●	1	3●	1	1	2	1	L	L	2	3●	3●	1	2	1	1	1	3●	3●	1	1	1	3●	1

	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
POOLS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3●	1	3●	3●	1	3●	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
CHECK	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	3●	1	2	2	2	1

Local non-league results

SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
Premier:
Barnet 2 Hereford 0
Braintree Town 1 Aldershot 0
Forest Green 0 Welling 0
Gateshead 3 Lincoln City 1
Hyde 0 Dartford 2
Kidderminster 1 Southport 1
Luton 3 Chester 0
Macclesfield 2 Tamworth 1
Nuneaton 0 Grimsby 1
Wrexham 1 Salisbury 1
South:
Basingstoke 0 Havant & Waterlooville 1
Bath City 4 Chelmsford 1
Bishops Stortford 1 Farnborough 3
Boreham Wood 2 Ebbsfleet 1
Bromley 6 Maidenhead 1
Concord 2 Westonsuper-Mare 0
Dorchester 0 Sutton 0
Dover 0 Eastbourne 0
Staines 0 Eastleigh 0
Whitehawk 1 Tonbridge Angels 0
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division:
AFC Totton 2 Corby 1
Bashley 1 St Albans 2
Bedford 0 Frome 2
Biggleswade 2 St Neots 2
Burnham 1 Weymouth 3
Chesham 2 Chippenham 0
Hitchin 0 Redditch 2
Hungerford 3 Arlesey 0
Poole Town 0 Hemel Hempstead 2
Stourbridge 3 Cambridge City 2
Truro City 5 Banbury 0
Division One South & West:
Bishops Cleeve 1 Merthyr Town 0
Bridgwater 1 Tiverton 2
Cinderford 1 Evesham Utd 3
Cirencester 0 North Leigh 0
Didcot 3 Guildford City 2
Fleet Town 3 Swindon Supermarine 0
Godalming 1 Thatcham 2
Paulton Rovers 0 Clevedon 0
Shortwood Utd 4 Mangotsfield Utd 0
Wimborne 1 Taunton 2
Yate 3 Stratford 1
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division:
Bemerton HH 2 AFC Portchester 1
Blackfield & Langley 2 Christchurch 2
Downton 0 Verwood 3
Fareham 1 Whitchurch 0
Fawley 2 Sholing 2
Follands 3 Romsey 1
HamworthyUtd 0 Alresford 2
Horndean 1 Bournemouth Poppies 0
Totton & Eling 2 Moneyfields 4
Division One:
Andover Town 7 Laverstock & Ford 0
Fleet Spurs 2 Hythe & Dibden 2
New Milton 2 Petersfield Town 4
Ringwood 1 Cowes Sports 4
Tadley Calleva 9 Hayling 1
Team Solent 3 Andover NS 2
US Portsmouth 2 Amesbury 1
PUMA ENGINEERING HANTS PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier Division:
AFC Stoneham 1 Hedge End Rangers 5
Baffins Milton Rovers 3 QK Southampton 0
Bournemouth Sports 1 Overton 2
Clanfield pp AFC Aldermaston
Liphook 0 Colden Common 0
Locks Heath 2 Fleetlands 0
Paulsgrove 1 Headley Utd 7
Winchester Castle 4 Liss Athletic 1
Division One:
Andover Lions 1 Infinity 2
Broughton pp Bush Hill
Four Marks 0 Lyndhurst 2
Hamble Club 5 Durley 1
Upham 0 Michelmersh & Timsbury 2
Combination:
Fleetlands 0 Clanfield 4
Hedge End 1 Winchester Castle 1
Liss Athletic 0 Paulsgrove 1
Michelmersh & Timsbury 0 AFC Stoneham 10
Otterbourne 0 Hamble Club 2
Overton 2 Liphook 0
WYVERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Wyvern Challenge Cup – quarter-final:
Locks Heath 2 Christchurch 0
Premier Division:
Moneyfields 2 Bemerton HH 0
Sholing 1 Wimborne Town 0
Division One West:
East Cowes 2 Lymington 3
Hythe & Dibden 2 Ringwood 5
Laverstock & Ford 1 Fawley 3
Verwood 2 Team Solent 0
Division One East:
Colden Common 0 Newport IoW 1
Petersfield 4 Alton 2
DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
Senior League Cup, semi-final:
Bishopstoke WMC 1 Cadnam United 3
Junior League Cup, third round:
Compton 1 Osborne 2
Premier:
BTC Soton 1 Comrades 5
Hedge End Town 2 Nursling 3
Senior 1:
Comrades Res 0 AFC Grains 3
Durley Res 0 BTC Soton Res 3
QK Soton Res1 Solent Saints 2

ISSN 0969-563X 12>
9 770969 563069
P 55p ISSN 0969-563X

Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd, and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from its offices at Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone: 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 122nd year. No. 37449